

Cordovez brings Afghan plan to U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez was due in Washington on Saturday to present to the U.S. government a proposed timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. U.S. officials said Mr. Cordovez was to see Michael Armacost, the third-ranking official in the State Department, to reveal the proposal to Washington. The officials, who asked not to be identified, insisted that Washington had not yet seen Kabul's proposed timetable and declined to speculate on what the U.S. government's reaction to it might be. They said the proposal would have to meet specific conditions if it were to justify Mr. Cordovez' optimism that the long-running sore in East-West relations, which started when Soviet troops went into Afghanistan in December 1979, could soon be healed.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Bangemann defends SDI accord

MOSCOW (R) — West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann defended Bonn's "Star Wars" pact with the United States before a Soviet deputy prime minister on Friday, saying it ruled out West German government involvement. Mr. Bangemann and Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Antonov made brief remarks to reporters in Moscow after signing a protocol on economic cooperation at the end of annual Soviet-West German talks on trade and industrial ventures. Mr. Antonov said political relations between the two countries had deteriorated since the last such talks because of certain West German actions, which he did not name. Diplomats said the remark was a clear reference to the U.S.-West German deal signed last week under which West German firms can join the research stage of President Reagan's plans for a space-based defence shield.

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Regent cables good wishes to Hungary and Senegal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has sent cables of good wishes to Hungarian President Pal Losonczy and Senegalese President Abdou Diouf congratulating them on the occasion of their countries' independence day. In his cables, the Crown Prince wished the two leaders continuing good health and happiness and their peoples further progress and prosperity.

Jordan switches to summer time

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan moved its clocks forward one hour at midnight Thursday as the country went on to daylight saving time until Oct. 3. This is the second year running that Jordan has taken the step. An official said he could not yet estimate the saving on fuel bills, but it was important, given a \$600 million fuel bill last year. Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, has also changed the arrival and departure times for its flights from and to Amman in accordance with the switching to summer time.

Bush in W. Germany en route to Gulf

FRANKFURT (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush arrived at a nearby American airbase on Friday en route to a 10-day tour of Gulf countries, a spokeswoman at the base said. Mr. Bush leaves on Saturday morning for Saudi Arabia, the first stop on his trip, which will also take him to Bahrain, Oman and North Yemen (See page 2).

New Caledonians to vote on independence

PARIS (R) — A referendum on independence for New Caledonia will be held in France's troubled South Pacific territory within a year, government officials said Friday. They said that the new right-wing government in Paris had not yet set a precise date for the referendum, not scheduled by the previous Socialist administration before the end of 1987. Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons on Friday met National Assembly members Jacques Lafleur and Maurice Nenou, and Dick Ukeiwe, president of New Caledonia's local congress.

'No Soviet asylum for Marcos'

MANILA (R) — Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Shabolin said on Friday the Soviet Union would not grant asylum to deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, the official Philippine News Agency reported. "It is impossible," the news agency quoted Mr. Shabolin as saying when asked if the Soviet Union would consider granting asylum to Marcos who fled to Hawaii in February after he was toppled by a civilian-backed military revolt which swept Corazon Aquino into power. "Our country is a Socialist country. We don't have a single capitalist in our country," Mr. Shabolin told reporters.

Indonesia praises new trade pact with Jordan

JAKARTA (Agencies) — Indonesia on Friday hailed a new trade agreement with Jordan signed during the current visit of His Majesty King Hussein saying it opened up new opportunities for trade with Middle East countries and Western Europe.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said the pact would help boost non-oil exports from Jakarta and provided access to an important transit point for exporting to other Arab countries, Turkey and Western Europe.

Mr. Kusumaatmadja said Aqaba was an important entrepot and could be used by Indonesia, badly hit by falling world prices for its oil, to gain access to wider markets without its vessels having to pass through the Suez Canal.

The agreement aimed at increasing bilateral trade was signed on Thursday by Prime Minister Zaki Rifai and Indonesia's Economy Minister Ali Wardhana.

Total trade last year was valued

at around only \$40 million, with Indonesia buying Jordanian phosphate and potash.

Mr. Mochtar said Indonesian vessels carrying phosphates to Jakarta returned empty. He wanted to see them going back carrying Indonesian goods. Under the agreement, these will include plywood, textiles, cooking oil, rubber, coffee and tea.

Officials said Indonesian imports from Jordan were worth \$25 million, while its exports to the Kingdom reached \$15 million.

Under the new deal, Jordan agreed to allow more Indonesian imports, including textiles, cooking oil, rubber, coffee and tea, to help redress the trade imbalance. Mr. Wardhana said.

Jordan also agreed to give preferential treatment to Indonesian plywood and planned to place an order for military uniforms with Indonesia.

Following the signing of the agreement on Thursday, Mr. Wardhana underlined the importance of the agreement, which he said, was bound to bolster bilateral cooperation and came as a crowning of King Hussein's visit to Indonesia. The Indonesian minister voiced hope that the agreement will also help enhance Islamic ties between the two countries.

In reply, Mr. Rifai said the agreement and the King's visit to Indonesia have contributed to further understanding and cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The signing of the agreement marked the end of King Hussein's official visit to Indonesia. Accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the King called at the presidential palace in Jakarta to pay a courtesy call on President Suharto.

Greece takes full responsibility for probe into TWA bombing

ATHENS — Greece insisted on Friday it would take the main responsibility for probing a midair bomb blast on an American airliner which killed four people, and refused comment on Italian theories that a woman planted the device.

Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said investigations into the bombing on a Rome-Athens flight were at an early stage and a lot more work had to be done.

The Italian news agency ANSA has said a suspected woman guerrilla on a Lebanese passport took an earlier flight from Cairo to Athens in the Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane. She got off the plane in Athens before it continued to Rome and she left later for Beirut, ANSA said.

Mr. Papoulias told a news conference: "I don't know anything about the woman. This is a matter for the police and we mustn't obstruct their work with premature comments."

Kostas Tsimas, secretary-general of the Public Order Ministry, said U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officers who arrived in Athens on Thursday and eight Italian police experts who left on Friday had not been conducting investigations.

"The investigation is being carried out by Greek police. The others are here as observers. If they are not satisfied by our investigations, they can do their own afterwards," he said.

Egypt has rejected Rome reports that the TWA bomb might have been carried on board in Cairo.

A government spokesman said the idea was "silly and unworthy of a reply."

Cairo airport Director Moustapha Kamal Mohamadi told Reuters the TWA plane left Cairo with 17 passengers, including a Lebanese woman identified as May Elias Mansur.

Rome police said a man named Mansur had occupied the seat where the explosive was hidden.

Mr. Mohamadi said a representative of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, which sets safety standards for air navigation, was at the airport and supervised the inspection procedure of the TWA flight.

TWA officials also help to inspect passengers and planes before they leave Cairo, he added.

TWA sources said Thursday the search was concentrating on a man or woman who, on a flight from Cairo to Athens, had sat in the seat where the explosion later occurred.

Four people, including a baby girl, were sucked out of the plane and fell 5,000 metres to their deaths after the explosion over southern Greece tore a hole in the aircraft's side. Nine people were injured.

The bodies were brought to Athens Thursday night and American doctors were due to perform autopsies on Saturday.

Meanwhile, conservative opposition leader Constantine Mitsotakis attacked the Socialist government over the prosecution of a newspaper, Eleftheros Typos, which reported the bomb might have been put on board in Athens.

A government spokesman said on Thursday the report was lies.

Mr. Papoulias reacted angrily to a questioner who asked if Greece might have secret agreements with urban guerrillas giving them safe passage.

"The Greek government categorically states that it has no agreements of that kind," he said, adding that the government had repeatedly denounced terrorism.

In Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres blamed Palestinian groups, the Syrian-based Abu Musa and Libyan-connected Abu Nidal, for the bombing of the U.S. airliner.

He said in a U.S. television interview that a claim of responsibility in Beirut by a group calling itself the Arab Revolutionary Cells was an attempted "cover-up."

"From what I know, the one who did it is the Abu Musa group, which is located in Syria, under Syrian auspices, together with Abu Nidal. And I think they have attempted on purpose to camouflage," he said in the interview.

The Arab Revolutionary Cells said in a statement delivered to international news agencies in Beirut that it had carried out the attack in revenge for "American Imperialist attempts to bring our Arab masses to their knees... the last of which were the failed attempts to attack Libya."

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi said during the height of a recent confrontation with U.S. naval forces in the Gulf of Sirte that his country was at war with the United States worldwide.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, confers with Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark on Friday (photo by Yusef Al Allam)

Iraqis report raid on Iranian oil station, two ships

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Friday its warplanes attacked an Iranian oil pumping station and two ships, one off the Iranian coast and other berthed at the station.

A military spokesman said main buildings at the Imam Hassan oil pumping station were left blazing and an oil tanker berthed at the station was directly hit.

The spokesman gave no exact location for the Imam Hassan site, but described it as one of Iran's important oil pumping stations.

The attacking aircraft left the area engulfed in flames, he added.

Iraqi warplanes at 9:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) on Friday also hit a naval target.

They were taken to mean an oil tanker or merchant ship — off the Iranian coast, the spokesman said.

Iraq's last confirmed attack on Gulf shipping was against the 176,053-ton Liberian super-tanker *Hawati* on March 29.

The spokesman said Iraqi warplanes destroyed 49 military vehicles of different types in raids on Iranian supply routes, attacked a concentration of military vehicles opposite the northern Iraqi town of Penjwin, and set fire to Iranian military headquarters in the same area.

They also attacked Iranian artillery units in Iraq's southern Fao Peninsula and dealt them destructive blows.

On its part, Iran claimed its troops killed "hundreds" of Iraqi military and destroyed several tanks in a Gulf war raid overnight near Chawarta in northern Iraq.

groups reject the charge.

Muslim leader Mustafa Saad meanwhile said after talks with British Ambassador John Gray he was mediating in efforts to win freedom for kidnapped Briton Alec Collett. He added they discussed the disappearance of two British teachers last week.

Mr. Gray conferred for 45 minutes with Mr. Saad, leader of the Popular Liberation Army whose Syrian-equipped militiamen control Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon.

"My visit was to discuss the fate of the two missing British teachers, which I have already discussed with various other parties in Lebanon," Mr. Gray told reporters after the meeting.

He said he has already discussed the plight of Leigh Douglas, 34, and Philip Padfield, 40, with senior officials of the Progressive Socialist Party and the Amal militia in Beirut.

Mr. Gray did not elaborate.

Mr. Douglas, of Norfolk, England, political science professor at the kidnapper-plagued American University of Beirut, and Mr. Padfield, of Bideford, Devon, director of Beirut's international language centre, were last seen in militiamen-ruled west Beirut last Friday night.

Polyakov winds up constructive talks

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, is expected to leave Jordan for Egypt today after talks which the Soviet embassy described as useful and constructive.

Soviet Ambassador Alexander Zinchuk said on Friday that both sides agreed on increasing Jordanian-Soviet consultations on developments in the region.

"We have agreed to hold consultations on a more regular basis in the future," Mr. Zinchuk told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview. He said Mr. Polyakov's talks dealt with "the overall situation" in the Middle East.

Another embassy official told the Jordan Times that Jordanian and Soviet positions at the talks were "nearly identical." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Zinchuk said that Mr. Polyakov did not meet with any PLO official in Amman. "He did not meet with any PLO official here," the ambassador said but did not mention whether Mr. Polyakov would be meeting PLO officials later in the evening or prior to his departure on Saturday.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received Mr. Polyakov at the Royal Court on Thursday. The Soviet official briefed Prince Hassan on the Soviet position vis-a-vis the Middle

East situation, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. It added that Prince Hassan reviewed during the meeting "the reality of the Palestinian problem and Jordan's position towards developments in the Middle East."

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri also met with Mr. Polyakov with whom he "made a comprehensive assessment of efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive, just and durable peace," Petra said.

The agency added that the two sides discussed ways "to mobilise the peace process" and "agreed on the principles which are the basis for such a peace settlement."

In an arrival statement to Petra on Thursday, Mr. Polyakov renewed his country's position "which supports Arab causes against Israeli expansion and aggression."

He praised Jordanian-Soviet relations and described them as "built on the basis of friendship and cooperation to serve the interest of both people."

Mr. Polyakov arrived here from Syria where he was received by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. He also conferred with Nayef Hawatme, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This is the second visit to the region by Mr. Polyakov since 1984.

Regent meets Canadian foreign minister

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Friday held talks with Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Joe Clark on latest developments in the Middle East as well as the Canadian-Jordanian relations and means to boost them.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, said the Crown Prince briefed Mr. Clark on the current situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and dimensions of Israel's expansionist policy.

The Regent also outlined to Mr. Clark Jordan's stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Kingdom's efforts for a negotiated settlement involving all parties concerned, Petra added.

It was not known whether Mr. Clark was carrying any Canadian contribution to push forward the stalled Middle East peace process.

David Malone, the first secretary at the Canadian embassy, has earlier been quoted by Reuters as describing Mr. Clark's visit to the Middle East as an "exploration trip, with Canada anxious to establish the position of the various interlocutors" in the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Clark was reported to have informed the Crown Prince that Canada was seeking to expand economic cooperation with Middle East states and particularly Jordan. The Canadian minister's spokesman Sean Brady told a press briefing on Friday that the bilateral economic relations will figure high during talks between Mr. Clark and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Mr. Clark, accompanied by his wife Maureen McTeer and an official delegation, on Friday called at several archaeological sites in Amman and Jerash.

Mr. Clark is expected to inaugurate on Sunday a complex of four schools for which Canada made a contribution of dollars 500,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Gorbachev wants full summit but does not define expected goal of talks

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev definitely wants a full summit with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, but it is unclear what the "substantive agreements" are that he wants from it, two U.S. congressmen said on Friday.

Representative Dante B. Fascell, Chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs committee, and Representative William Brockmeyer, the ranking minority member of the committee, held nearly three hours of talks on Friday with Mr. Gorbachev. The Americans spoke at a news conference before leaving Moscow.

The congressmen said they tried to pin Mr. Gorbachev down on what he wants from a summit.

"He said that he's still interested, he still wants to go, that he feels confident we can get there, and that he would like something substantive out of it," Mr. Fascell said.

"We could not, by the process of asking questions, elicit what it was the Soviet Union or general secretary has in mind as a specific programme that would satisfy their political position or policy position with respect to having a substantive step" coming from the summit, he said.

Mr. Gorbachev has raised doubts about the summit planned for 1986 after linking the timing to U.S. agreement on arms control and calling for a separate meeting in Europe on a nuclear test ban.

Mr. Fascell said Mr. Gorbachev did not mention timing. "We weren't stupid enough to ask him specifically what date he was planning on going," he said.

But he said the Soviet leader was imposing no preconditions on the meeting, which the two leaders agreed last November in Geneva to hold in the United States in 1986.

Mr. Fascell, who delivered a message from Mr. Reagan to Mr. Gorbachev, also said he had not raised the question of a meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. This would have to take place as a preparation for a new summit.

He said his impression from several days of talks with senior Soviet officials "is that such a meeting is about to take place. I can't tell you where I got that from or why..."

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Arafat in Baghdad for PLO talks

BAGHDAD (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has arrived in Baghdad to chair a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership, Arab diplomats said on Friday.

They said the PLO's Executive Committee and leaders of Mr. Arafat's mainstream group Fatah would discuss various issues, including clashes between Palestinians and Amal militia fighters in Beirut refugee camps.

Mr. Arafat arrived Thursday night from Bahrain, where he told Reuters that Gulf leaders he met on a tour of the region had responded positively to his call for an Arab summit to discuss the future of the Palestinian problem.

But he said the Gulf leaders insisted the summit had to be successful.

Mr. Arafat, who visited Gulf states ahead of a four-nation tour of the region by U.S. Vice-President George Bush, (See page 2) reiterated accusations that Washington's policy was responsible for the PLO-Jordanian break earlier this year.

Amal-Palestinian war continues

BEIRUT (R) — Explosions and machine gun bursts on Friday took conflict at the Palestinian camps in Beirut into a second week despite determined Syrian pressure for peace.

Fighting flared sporadically at the Sabra and Shatila shantytowns after mortar bombardments sent civilians running for cover, residents said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, but militia and Palestinian sources said at least 24 people have been killed and dozens wounded since the clashes began on March 28.

In the south, two pro-Israeli militiamen were killed when resistance fighters attacked their vehicle near the town of Jezzine, security sources said. Another was killed in a guerrilla ambush further south.

The conflict at Beirut's camps is the worst between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and Palestinians since battles at Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh camp seven months ago.

Syria, alarmed by the clashes, summoned senior Palestinian official Mahdi Bseiso to Damascus for talks on enforcing peace. A dozen ceasefires have already collapsed.

The Syrian link between Amal

and certain Palestinian groups is the only reason why the conflict has not spread, a political source in west Beirut said.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam told Syrian military observers by telephone on Thursday to "spare no effort" to end the fighting, the political source said.

A pro-Syrian Palestinian group said if the fighting was not stopped it might "provoke a general flare-up throughout the country... in the (Amal-held) region of Tyre, for example."

Automatic fire, punctuated by rocket explosions, meanwhile blazed over west Beirut as gunmen celebrated the reelection of Nabih Berri as Amal leader for a further two years.

Rhythmic two-shot bursts rattled out from Amal militiamen signalling loyalty to Mr. Berri, leader since 1980, as Beirut Radio announced his election at an Amal congress.

Political analysts said it appeared to consolidate the 48-year-old lawyer's position in the leadership in Beirut.

Amal accused Palestinians loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of starting the fighting but anti — and pro-Arafat Palestinian

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BEIRUT (R) — French ceasefire observers have left Lebanon after a hazardous two-year mission monitoring militia clashes in the Lebanese capital.

The ceremony, at the force's headquarters on Beirut's 'green line' battlefield, was attended by the French ambassador and Fal-

Soon after the French arrived in March 1984 the fledgling National Unity Government of Prime Min-

The observers' first fatality was Capt. Pierre Anjort, shot by a sni-

drawn from the hill and its duties restricted to just four positions, including two atop Beirut's tallest buildings.

Spanish minister to visit Morocco

MADRID (R) — Spain's interior minister has accepted an invitation by the Moroccan government to visit Rabat in May, a ministry spokesman said Friday. But the spokesman refused to comment whether Interior Minister Jose Barrionuevo would discuss the situation of people of Moroccan descent living in Spain's enclave cities of Ceuta and Melilla on Morocco's northern coast. Rabat has expressed its concern over the position of the enclaves' 30,000 people of Moroccan origin, following the application of a Spanish Aliens' Law on April 1. The law, which makes illegal residents in the enclave cities liable to expulsion, has triggered protests by the enclaves' Muslim community. Barrionuevo held talks with community leaders in Ceuta and Melilla this week to assure their residence permits would be granted to those who had roots in the enclaves. Spain has held the garrison cities for four centuries, but Morocco says it will step up its sovereignty claims if Spain recovers the British colony of Gibraltar across the straits.

TEHRAN (R) — Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari, once one of Iran's most senior clergyman, has died of cancer at a hospital spokesman said. A small crowd gathered quietly outside the capital's Shari'at hospital where he was lying, crying and comforting one another. Shariat-Madari, in his mid 80s, was one of Iran's most senior ayatollahs before being disgraced by his alleged knowledge of a plot to overthrow supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1981, for which he apologised on television. Since then he had been under house arrest in Oum, a Shi'ite Muslim teaching centre south of Tehran. Ill with kidney cancer for two years, he was hospitalised 40 days ago. A clergyman at the hospital said Shariat-Madari's body was taken by relatives to Oum.

TEL AVIV (R) — The population of Israel and the Arab territories it has occupied since 1967 is 5.56 million, 3 million Jews and 2.05 million non-Jews, most of them Arabs, a statistics bureau spokesman has said. The spokesman said that 1 million Israelis lived in settlements in the occupied West Bank, which has an Arab population of 790,000, and 2,000 Israelis lived in the Gaza Strip among 510,000 Arabs. The West Bank figures did not include Israeli-annexed Arab East Jerusalem, where an Arab population of 130,000 lives in neighbourhoods adjacent to newly-built Jewish areas with a population of about 90,000. The largest concentration of Arabs within Israel's pre-June 1967 borders is in Galilee, northern Israel, which has a population of 355,000 non-Jews and 352,000 Jews, the statistics bureau's figures show. The total number of Israeli Arabs is about 600,000.

VALETTA (R) — Arab League Secretary General Chaddi Klibi has arrived for talks on the situation in the Mediterranean after last month's U.S.-Libyan clashes in the Gulf of Sirte, sources close to the Maltese government said. In a prepared statement, Klibi said the role of Malta, a helping hand to the Arab member countries which was subject to aggression, and the Maltese government's efforts to defuse the situation. Malta said at the time that no country had the right to attack a smaller and weaker country. Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici travelled to Tripoli for talks with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has decided to establish diplomatic relations with Peru at ambassadorial level, the official Saudi Press Agency has reported. It said the kingdom wants to boost friendly ties with Latin American states.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has launched a major drive to raise money to fight cancer. "We want to help the victims to help themselves," said Dalal Al Ghanim, a member of a Women's Social and Cultural Society that formed a committee recently to educate the public and "remove the stigma attached to cancer." It has become an "unmentionable illness," she said, adding most victims confine themselves to their homes and often become alienated from their families. Cancer strikes 50 of every 100,000 people in Kuwait. Although the incidence is low by European standards, victims are much younger than those in the West, according to Dr. Omar Yousef, head of the Cancer Control Centre. "Breast cancer, the most common type to afflict women, is what usually worries women of 50 and older in the West, while in Kuwait some of the breast cancer patients are in their twenties," he said in a recent published interview.

BAHRAIN (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush arrives in Saudi Arabia Saturday at the start of a four-nation tour aimed at strengthening Washington's standing in the Gulf region. . . .

"I think it is essential that we talk about stability and not have a

oil. region starting Saturday...

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese security forces have foiled a plot by supporters of deposed President Nimeiri to overthrow the government, a letter from Nimeiri to Mekele said.

Mr. Medani said the authorities had arrested a businessman, Fuad Ahmad Mekki, and another man called Abdul Gadir who was alleged to be a member of the Islamic government.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence 1981	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qawweishaj	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman donations fire brigade	198
Fire aid	630341
Blood bank	787303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	672003
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	8963901
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771125/8
Queen Alla Int. Airport	680533/3060

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	81381/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mafieh, J. Amman	642481
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669931
University Hospital	845845/65
Al-Muhammar Hospital	667271/9
The Islamic Aides	664187/57
Al-Ahli, Abchal	664148/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Ainay, Meida	896161/15
Queen Alla Hospital	624281/3
Amal Hospital	674351

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim	891256
Dr. Yousef Horani	821462
Firas pharmacy	661912
Al Salim pharmacy	636730
Shahstah pharmacy	621669
Marsam pharmacy	665489
Nuzha pharmacy	630237
Al Hindi pharmacy	644942
Natasha pharmacy	878822
TAXIS:	
Al Hamra taxi	661833
Al Ahli taxi	661127
Bassam taxi	811857
Tharqi taxi	623024
Khalouk taxi	664688
Rasni taxi	625095

IRSID:

Dr. Ali Hassan Khaleel	()
Sal'oon pharmacy	()
Bashar pharmacy	()

RAQA:

Dr. Zaki Anahis	983365
Jordan pharmacy	983124

GENERAL

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel Complaints	666412
Telephone Information	661176
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper market price in fils per kg.

Apple	260/220	Lemon	230/180
Apple (golden)	240/180	Lettec (per ooe)	100/100
Banana	240/180	Marrow (large)	120/ 80
Banana (Muhannam)	250/220	Menn (small)	170/140
Betroot	120/ 80	Onion (dry)	180/140
Bone	280/240	Onion (green)	120/140
Bone Beans	220/180	Orange (Shamouti)	320/250
Cabbage	50/ 40	Orange (Jozal and Valencia)	130/100
Carrot (yellow)	140/100	Pepper (small)	130/100
Cauliflower	160/120	Pepper (big)	320/280
Cucumber (large)	140/100/100	Potatoes (local)	70/140
Cucumber (small)	140/100	Potatoes (sweet)	200/150
Eggplant (large)	180/140	Radishes	80/ 50
Eggplant (small)	240/180	Tomatoes	150/120
Garlic	260/120	Turnips	140/100
		Turnip	30/ 60



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: Four newly-appointed ambassadors in Jordan Thursday presented their credentials to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the Royal Court. The envoys were Hector Cardenas Rodriguez of Mexico, Abdelhadi Haj

Abdul Rahman Al Sayyed of Somalia, Karl Fischer of Czechoslovakia and Mamdouh Salous Sylla of Guinea. Upon his arrival at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan inspected the guard of honour and the Armed Forces band played the national anthems of Jordan and the four countries. The presentation ceremonies were attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and the general secretary of the Royal Court.

Haj Hassan meets president, members of JCA

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khalef Al Haj Hassan had stressed the importance of cooperation between the contracting sector and the government in order to contain the growing problem of unemployment in Jordan. The minister also called on this sector to perform its duty to enable Jordanians to fill any job opportunities available in this sector and he stressed the need for giving Jordanians priority in employment and training in order to achieve government goals in this respect and to also reduce Jordan's dependence on foreign labour.

Speaking during a meeting held at the ministry on Thursday with the newly-elected board of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA), the minister said that the government's decision to give priority in the implementation of projects financed by the tre-

asury to local contractors was not arbitrary. This decision, he said, stemmed from the necessity to support this sector and to protect it from unfair competition from foreign contractors.

Due to the confidence the government attaches to the contracting sector, contractors should do their best to perform their duty, to carry out their work correctly and to change their negative image which developed due to certain circumstances, the minister said. Mr. Haj Hassan added that the government is aware that the country is in need for foreign labour in certain professions and he continued that if (the government) will not stop any employer hiring foreign labourers provided that there is no available Jordanian alternative.

The minister also expressed his hope that employers will take the initiative to start training Jor-

dans in the professions in which foreign labourers are employed so that local manpower can be used which would ease unemployment and save country's reserves of foreign currency. He also congratulated new president and board of the JCA for their election and wished them continuing success in serving and developing contracting sector.

JCA President Ali Abul Al Ragheb on his part paid tribute to the measures taken by the government to protect this sector. The government's support to this sector warrants that contractors should do their utmost to fulfill their responsibilities. Mr. Abul Al Ragheb added. He promised that the contracting sector would undertake the responsibility of training Jordanians in the required professions with a view to dispensing with the foreign labour force.

QAJSWF marks another fruitful year with expanded social welfare activities

By Najwa Netjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan today marks national social welfare day and on this occasion the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) has made public its 1985 annual report. According to Dr. Zaki Ayoubi, a member of the fund's board of trustees, the QAJSWF marked another fruitful year of increased and expanded activities in 1985.

In 1977 the fund was created as a national private voluntary organisation aiming to participate in the development of, and to support, voluntary social work through various means. This measure was prompted as a result of a weak and limited voluntary sector in the 1970's. Dr. Ayoubi told the Jordan Times. During these days, social services were restricted to Amman and the number of volunteers with proper technical training were minimal. "There was a need for a national organisation with a clear task to play as a catalyst to give impetus for growth to social work in other cities and in the rural areas," he said.

The mission of the QAJSWF had to be translated into specific activities. Three main points of action were set up by the QAJSWF board of trustees, which is headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. Each axis covers certain weaknesses in the private voluntary sector, noted Dr. Ayoubi. And the accomplishments of each for 1985 were many.

The first axis of action is the conduct of research, studies, and seminars concerning social aspects and social problems in Jordan. The QAJSWF was involved in several seminars on the international, sub-regional, and local level for this purpose. Topics of the seminars revolved around issues such as organisation and management in special education, the role of voluntary organisations in meeting the needs of childhood and adolescents, and the socio-economic attributes of the family in the city of Mafrq and programmes of demographic education. In addition, a survey of the disabled in 12 villages in the Karak and Tafleh regions were conducted. Meetings were held by the local inhabitants of a number of the villages to discuss the situation of the handicapped people there.

Social centres

The research and studies led the QAJSWF in certain to propose pioneering projects that either provide new types of services or better types of services, or both in new locations in Jordan. According to Dr. Ayoubi, the QAJSWF managed to complete six centres outside Amman. The fund strives to spread services to the rural and bedouin areas in various governorates in Jordan. The centres established in 1985 were in Madaba, Hisban, Ma'an, Atleth,

Mafrq, Za'atari, Al Huzhab and Ghor Al Mazra'a. The centre at Madaba is a sample of the services offered at the other villages. The staff, made up of seven local inhabitants, receives training for six months before embarking on the programme created by the QAJSWF. Mr. Maha Hadad, programme director at the Madaba centre. The programme aims at providing social, health, cultural, educational, and recreational services to the children and adults of the areas through the following projects and activities: children's clubs, kindergartens, nurseries, children's libraries, vocational training workshops for women, adult literacy programmes, and social and health education programmes.

Women, families

All the women who were interviewed expressed genuine interest and gratitude for the programme. Fees for the lessons in knitting, sewing, embroidery, typing, flower arrangement and design, needlework, and home economics are minimal. Training rural women in some craft and cottage industries provides the woman with a tool to help her promote the socio-economic conditions of her family.

The programme stressed sanitation, not only through the lectures, and health and cultural films shown, but in all the activities offered. The development of general knowledge of man and women in society, and basic information necessary for their social family lives is also seen as crucial to success of the programme. The social workers of the centre pay home visits to the families in the service area of the centre, meeting with the housewives and discussing the various issues and problems that concern women in their local communities. If necessary, the issue is brought up in a general meeting at the centre for discussion and evaluation to find the proper solutions.

The third axis of action that QAJSWF utilises is the support of private voluntary organisations. The fund provides support in two forms, technical and financial. There is a department of nine social work specialists in various fields such as disabled and women. This team from the QAJSWF vis-

its societies all over Jordan. During the visits they hold discussions with the executive committees of the societies with the aim of providing consultation as to how these societies can improve their services, organisation, and programmes. As Mr. Ayoubi said, Dr. Ayoubi told the Jordan Times.

Consultation services

Other than the consultation services, which is considered technical support, the QAJSWF offers financial assistance. This form of assistance, which is either cash or equipment, is given to those societies which are in urgent need and which show interest and enthusiasm to develop specific programmes. The QAJSWF is willing to give these societies more attention and a more precise programme of assistance, said Dr. Ayoubi.

In the area of technical support, the social workers of the fund have conducted 155 advisory meetings with the board members of voluntary societies, said Dr. Ayoubi. He said that financial support was extended to 63 organisations for programmes such as child care, education and rehabilitation of the disabled, construction and building projects.

Additionally the fund has made available training courses for teachers of kindergartens, treasurers, sewing teachers and social workers who work with the disabled. Half of the course were addressed to mothers of the disabled and dealt with the different types of disability.

Funding, contributions

An ambitious programme has been outlined for 1986 by the QAJSWF. They hope to fulfil the expanded and extended programme using the same three axis of action as in 1985. The fund, in the implementation of its projects and activities, relies completely on local, Arab and international contributions.

Dr. Ayoubi noted that most of the contributions that were made from many of the Arab countries were the result of Princess Basma's visits and the good will of His Majesty King Hussein, who is the honorary founder and chairman of the fund.

Jordan, W. Germany sign memo on seed improvement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and West Germany are to cooperate in completing an agricultural project which is designed to increase grain and seed production in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman on Thursday.

The agreement was contained in memoranda on technical cooperation between the two countries and signed by Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhsan and

West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Barfels.

Under the agreement, West Germany undertakes to dispatch a team of experts to work for the Ministry of Agriculture and it will offer technical assistance and conduct experiments and laboratory tests for the purpose of producing better wheat and barley seeds in the course of implementing a local project which started in 1982.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zaid returns from Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned to Amman Thursday evening at the end of a several day visit to Bahrain. During his visit, Gen. Sharif Zaid was received by the Emir of Bahrain and met with other officials and inspected military installations. Discussions focused on military cooperation between Jordan and Bahrain. Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers were at the airport to greet Gen. Sharif Zaid upon his return (Petra photo).

Alia starts flights to Sana'a Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, will as of Sunday start operating a direct weekly flight between Amman and Sana'a in North Yemen. The step is in line with Alia's policy to expand its network as well to establish bridges of friendship between Jordan and Arab countries.

CAA to install equipment for the blind

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has contracted a French company to supply special equipment for the blind to be used at the telephone switchboard at the Queen Alia International Airport. The cost of this equipment, to be delivered to the CAA by the end of this year, is approximately JD 6,000. His Highness Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, honorary chairman of the Friendship Society for the Blind, has donated JD 1,270 and the remainder of the cost will be covered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Jordan to take part in tourism fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a tourist fair due to be opened in Bahrain on April 6. The Jordanian pavilion will display traditional handicrafts, pottery and mother of pearl products and will present folk performances at the five-day fair. Participating in the fair are Jordanian stores for oriental souvenirs, tourist and travel offices, hotels and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. The Ministry of Tourism will also be represented at the fair.

Public works official heads for U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works Khalaf Hawwari Friday left for the United States on a month-long visit. He will familiarise himself with techniques used in the management and maintenance of roads and will tour a number of factories manufacturing traffic lights. The Ministry of Public Works plans to set up a plant in Jordan to produce equipments for traffic lights. Mr. Hawwari is accompanied by Mr. Khalil Madi, director of the ministry's Department of Road Maintenance.

Sereri to visit China this month

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation, led by Youth Minister Khatham Al Sharari, will leave for Peking on April 20 for a 10-day official visit to China. During the visit, the delegation will meet with Chinese officials in charge of youth activities for talks on developing relations between the two countries as well as means of benefiting from Chinese experience in the youth field. Chinese sports and youth installations will also be visited by the Jordanian delegation. Jordan and China have signed agreements under which Chinese coaches have been sent to Jordan and the two countries have also exchanged youth delegation.

Formed former municipal affairs committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud has formed a committee to follow up on the implementation of recommendations issued by the first municipalities conference held last month in Amman. The committee, chaired by Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawashdeh, comprises the undersecretary of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, senior officials of the same ministry and heads of municipal councils in Zarqa, Karak, Madaba, Qweisbeh, Sweidiah and Jubeiha.

Congratulations

AFTER five years of meetings in various capitals of the world, Abdulkhalil Hassan, editor of the Jordan Times' pages 4 and 5, and Gerda Schmolzer, editor of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in Vienna, have tied the knot. They married in Amman on Tuesday, April 1, 1986.

The date of course was not a coincidence.

The choice was made by Abdulkhalil and Gerda, or to the best of our knowledge (by one of them), to make the marriage appear as an April fool's joke. It may well be an April fool's joke for either the bride or the groom, but not for the rest of the Jordan Times staff who took the whole thing seriously



and went ahead to celebrate the happy occasion at a picnic party off the road to Yajouz on Friday. It was fun. Heartfelt congratulations, Gerda and Abdulkhalil, and the best of luck.

Medical experts conclude talks on unemployment of Arab doctors

Seminar calls for comprehensive approach to planning to ensure proper distribution of health services

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A two-day seminar, co-sponsored by the Arab Association for the Development of Medical Sciences and the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, which focused on the problems of newly-graduated doctors in the Arab World concluded its discussions Friday recommending a scientific and comprehensive approach to the planning of medical services which participants said should be fairly distributed according to demographic and geographic divisions.

The seminar, in which a number of prominent doctors from Jordan and Lebanon participated, also stressed the need to provide doctors with a system of continuing education. They also called for extending medical services to rural and remote areas and ending the concentration of medical services in towns and cities, particularly capitals.

The participants presented and discussed eight working papers relating to standards of new doctors, unemployment among doctors and ways and means to guarantee a high standard and a fair distribution of medical services between urban and rural areas.

The papers pointed out the main problems facing the medical sectors in both Jordan and Lebanon and noted that there are increasing numbers of newly graduated doctors who are unable to find jobs in both countries.

The medical sectors of both countries are characterised by large numbers of newly graduated doctors, with varying professional and academic levels, who cannot be absorbed in the labour market due to the lack of planning of medical services in the Arab World, the papers said.

The participants pointed out that doctors' unemployment was also due to the fact that other Arab countries, which used to absorb unemployed Jordanian and Lebanese doctors, have started years to graduate their own doctors.

Means to evaluate newly graduated doctors, some of whom were trained at comparatively low-standard universities, was discussed at length by the participants who differed in their evaluation of the different medical schools in foreign countries.

Evaluation of graduates

The issue of evaluating new graduates has been a particularly controversial subject in Jordan after the introduction of an exam for specialist physicians in 1982. Many new graduates claim that the questions are very difficult and that the exam aims at cutting down

the number of specialist physicians in Jordan. A large number of the new graduates, backed by the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), have protested against the exam methods and have also demanded that a training and an educational programme be provided for those who fail the exam. Most participants, particularly Jordanians, supported the continuation of the exam but some said that the method should be changed.

Other participants, however, argued that over the last ten years there have been a large number of Jordanians who graduated with very weak academic standards from some foreign medical institutes. Both Jordanian and Lebanese participants agreed that it would be very difficult for both countries to define which medical institutes are acceptable and which are not. "This could create diplomatic strains with the foreign countries where there are weak medical schools," one participant said.

The Lebanese participants said that in practice there has not been an exam for medical specialists in Lebanon although the law has left it optional for the committee, which supervises the comprehensive exam for new medical graduates, to hold a special exam for specialists when there is a need.

Participants, however, differed on whether there was a need, considering the overall lack of medical facilities and health centres in both countries, for reducing the number of students at medical schools in Lebanon and Jordan. Some argued that both countries are still in need of more doctors but said that there should be a more even distribution of medical services in the urban and rural areas since there are still some areas, in both Lebanon and Jordan, which lack adequate medical services.

Others, however, argued that the number of medical students should be reduced to solve unemployment among doctors and to guarantee a high quality of graduates.

Government leases state land for development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has leased 21,000 dunums of state land to a local company which will develop the land for agricultural purposes. No specific period for the lease was given.

An agreement signed in Amman on Thursday provides for the Arab International Company for Agricultural Development to develop the land, located in the southern regions of the country, against the payment of a nominal fee of 100 fils a dunum annually.

Following the signing ceremony, Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhsan said that the agreement falls within a government plan to develop and encourage investment in the semi-desert regions of the Kingdom. The cabinet recently decided to lease 75,000 dunums of land at

Sahl Al Suwyan and Al Mudawwara to five Jordanian companies specialising in agriculture. It also decided to lease 50,000 dunums of land to the Rumay Agricultural Company which will plant cereals and fodder. This area of land is also at the Sahl Al Suwyan region, the minister said.

Mr. Dakhsan said that the government's decision was taken for the purpose of exploiting 200,000 dunums of unused land in the south of the Kingdom where there is sufficient underground water for irrigation purposes. The minister expressed hope that the projects will help increase the country's production of cereals and lean meat and that they would also reduce Jordan's dependence on imported food supplies. The government has offered

incentives to encourage local firms to exploit these lands and has pledged to purchase the production at subsidised and competitive prices for a period of five years, the minister pointed out.

Exemptions for investors

The investors are entitled to certain privileges and will be exempted from paying income, land or any other tax related to agriculture. They will also be able to bring in machinery and farm implements without paying any customs fees, the minister added.

He said that any installations set up for the implementation of these agricultural projects will also be exempted from any tax in accordance with a Jordanian law on the encouragement of investment.

Friday 11 APRIL

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: 'Cart before the horse'

STATEMENTS by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres are full of contradictions and are designed to create confusion. The two men have recently stated that peace and economic progress in the Middle East should be accompanied by stability and pro-American attitude. They both advocate some sort of a Marshall Plan for the region provided that all anti-American feelings stop and a new era of Arab-Israeli cooperation begin.

It is clear that this formula is impracticable and looks like placing the cart before the horse. It should be emphasised to the Americans and the Israelis that once real peace has been established, this region will be heading towards economic progress and not the vice versa. We want peace and our land first, and then we talk about economic progress for the region. Also any Marshall Plan involving Western economic aid should not be attached to any conditions, otherwise the whole region would be subjected once again to foreign domination. Real progress lies in the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and an end to all American attempts to impose hegemony on the countries of this region.

Al Dustour: Israeli plans and plots

IN another show of disrespect to Muslim feelings and a violation of the sanctity of their holy places, Israeli extremists Thursday tried to storm Al Aqsa Mosque in a bid to seize the holy shrine. The Israeli police were reported to have supported the Zionists in their evil attempt, but fortunately were driven away by the mosque's guards and the Arab people of the city.

This aggression on Al Aqsa is no doubt in line with Israel's plans and plots, directed against our holy places in Jerusalem. It is also an act of offence directed against the feelings of the hundreds of millions of Muslim people around the globe. Al Aqsa has become not only a holy place for the Arabs and Muslims but also a symbol for steadfastness in the face of Israel's conspiracies. It has withstood arson and excavation and repeated attempts by Israelis to storm it and demolish it. The attack on Al Aqsa coincided with statements by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in the United States which contained claims of Israel's desire to live in peace with the Arabs. Perhaps this fresh violation can convince all nations that Israel has taken steps towards fighting peace and thwarting any attempt leading to that goal.

Sawt Al Shaab: A good example to follow

IT is most encouraging to see the people of Sudan back on the track to democracy following the recent election. It is also encouraging to see the military leaders keeping their promise and holding such election designed to offer the people power to take decisions by themselves. It is rare to find such honouring of commitments in the Third World countries and the election in Sudan is a good example for other nations to follow.

The military regime in Sudan has presented something new and has opted to hand over to the people the reins of power in the country, unlike many regimes which choose to hold on to power regardless of the feelings and the rights of the people. This is a true exercise of democracy, coming after 20 years of dictatorship and after long years of pain and sufferings in Sudan. This democratic experiment in Sudan should serve as an example to many Third World nations which continue to be subjected to dictatorship rule.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Israeli attack on Egypt

FOR the first time and since the signing of the Camp David agreement Israel openly has launched an attack on the Egyptian leadership. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has accused the Egyptian government of preventing the Egyptian people from making normal relations with the Israeli people who want to live in peace with them. Shamir told the parliament that the Egyptian propaganda in the press directed against Israel has encouraged extremist Egyptian elements to launch attacks on Israeli diplomats.

Shamir clearly wants to put pressure on Egypt, and if the Egyptian leadership held out, he would find in his statement "a pretext for stopping negotiations over the future of Tabaa." Perhaps Shamir is trying to take vengeance on Egypt because its leadership has recently announced that it withstood American pressure and refused to join in an aggression on Libya. One can clearly see now that Egyptian-Israeli relations are not excellent as Israel used to claim, and that the Camp David agreement has totally failed to bring peace nearer.

Al Dustour: Indonesia's role in supporting Arab causes

HIS Majesty King Hussein's talks with the Indonesian president assume a special importance because of Indonesia's status as the largest Islamic country on earth and because it can play a leading role in supporting Arab causes. King Hussein's talks with President Suharto centred on the Middle East in general and the Palestine problem and the holy land in particular. Because Jordan is keen on rallying support for the general efforts designed to regain these lands and restore Arab and Islamic sovereignty on them, Indonesia can play an important role in this respect and can also offer contribution to the current efforts for ending the Gulf war which also came up in the talks between the two leaders.

King Hussein also discussed Indonesian-Jordanian relations and widening scopes of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The strong Jordanian-Indonesian relations will no doubt pave the way for better cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

Missiles for anti-Soviet rebels mark shift in U.S. policy

By Sue Baker
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's decision to send Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and other U.S. weapons to rebels in Angola and Afghanistan has delighted his conservative supporters but opponents fear it could intensify the conflicts in those countries.

The provision of the weapons to guerrillas Mr. Reagan describes as anti-Communist freedom fighters also marks a shift towards a higher level of U.S. involvement in those areas, congressional and other sources said.

Opponents say the action threatens the remaining credibility of Washington's role as an impartial broker for a peaceful settlement to conflict in southern Africa.

Until now the United States had

tried to distance itself from the Afghan rebellion. It has restricted its arms help for the forces fighting the Soviet-backed government to simple weapons made anywhere except in the United States and widely available on international markets.

But new, sophisticated weapons such as the Stingers "have U.S. fingerprints all over them," said one arms expert. And they dramatically increase rebel strength against modern Soviet equipment such as helicopter gunships.

In Africa, the implications of the U.S. policy change are clear as far as escalation of the conflict between the Soviet and Cuban-backed Angolan government and UNITA rebels are concerned, said a staff member on the House of Representatives' Africa Subcommittee.

A Senate aide said: "The more we pour in there the more the Angolans rely on Soviet and Cuban assistance."

Washington says the Angolan government is backed by some 35,000 Cuban troops and \$2 billion in Soviet equipment.

Another House staff member said provision of such weapons to guerrillas in Afghanistan would intensify the fighting, possibly even prompting Soviet attacks on Afghan rebel camps in Pakistan.

But conservative supporters of what has become known as the "Reagan doctrine" — the president's pledge to halt what he calls Soviet expansionism around the world — welcomed the decision.

"I am very encouraged that President Reagan is giving flesh to his

words," said Howard Phillips of the conservative caucus, a right-wing lobbying group. "It shows he is serious."

An aide to Congressman Mark Siljander, a Republican who supports open military aid to UNITA, said he was "ecstatic" at the news.

"It's going to equalize things and make a Communist victory a whole lot more difficult," the aide said.

Congressional and private sources said the administration made the decision to provide the U.S. arms late last month after a group of Republican senators, including majority leader Bob Dole, overcame opposition from Secretary of State George Shultz.

The State Department has favoured the undercover supply of non-U.S. weapons.

A House source said the Stingers "are definitely a step-up" from the level of supplies provided by Washington over the past few years to the Afghan rebels, called Mujahideen.

U.S. groups supporting the Mujahideen have complained that the Reagan administration gave the rebels only enough weapons for fighting and dying and not enough to win the war.

A spokesman for one such group, the American-Afghan Action Committee, welcomed the decision to provide several hundred missiles but said more would be needed to turn the military tide in the rebels' favour.

On Angola, one Senate aide on the Foreign Relations Committee said Mr. Reagan's decision earlier this year to resume military aid to

UNITA after a 10-year gap already had encountered strong opposition from many African countries.

Raising the stakes by sending UNITA sophisticated U.S. weapons, the aide said, "only makes the signal already sent to black African nations worse."

Those nations condemn UNITA for accepting support from South Africa's white-minority government and view the U.S. aid as putting Washington in a de facto alliance with Pretoria and its apartheid policies.

The aide said that when Reagan took the initial decision to aid UNITA, it became difficult for the U.S. to be an impartial broker in the area's conflict.

"Now I think it's even harder," she said.

Japanese monarch's 60th anniversary fete under extremist threat

By Yuko Nakamikado
Reuter

TOKYO — The world's longest-reigning monarch was taking an afternoon nap when home-made rockets streaked across the moat of his imperial palace last week, opening shots in a leftist assault on the man once revered by his subjects as God.

Police are hot on the trail of two urban guerrilla groups vowing to disrupt this month's celebrations to mark Emperor Hirohito's 60th year on the throne, and also a summit meeting of seven leading industrialised nations here in May.

The venue of the May summit, the State Guest House, was the target of a rocket attack on Monday.

In the earlier attack, two rockets crashed into the well-manicured palace grounds on March 25 and a third hit the U.S. embassy. There were no casualties or damage and retainers said the 84-year-old emperor did not even awake from his afternoon nap.

The attacks, which include a strike against Osaka Police Headquarters on Friday, have set alarm bells ringing in a country that prides itself on order and harmony. Police have arrested one activist and seized coded plans showing how to make bombs.

According to the mass-circulation Yomiuri Shinbun one set of documents exposed a plot by radicals to drop cars — symbols of Japan's economic might — over the side of railway bridges to wreck Japan's high-speed "bullet" trains during the next few weeks.

The push by radical groups comes at a time when some Japanese are questioning whether their frail emperor, whose reign has seen the country's military rise and fall and resurgence to unimaginable economic power, is being used for political gain.

On April 29 he will celebrate his 85th birthday with public appearances on a bullet-proof balcony of his palace in the heart of Tokyo. The occasion also will be taken to mark his 60 years as emperor although the actual anniversary of his accession in 1926 does not fall until December.

The government of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone will stage a celebration ceremony at Tokyo's Kokugikan Hall, usually the venue for traditional Japanese sumo wrestling, a favourite sport of the emperor.

Extreme leftists blame him for Japan's expansionist wars in the 1930s and 1940s. They regard the May summit of Japan and its Western trading partners the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and Canada as a gathering of capitalists.

Police are taking stringent security precautions for the anniversary celebrations and the summit.

Emperor Hirohito, the 124th in a line believed to stretch back nearly

2,650 years to the mythical sun goddess Amaterasu Omikami, was regarded as God by many Japanese before World War II. He renounced his divinity five months after atomic bombs obliterated two of his cities in 1945.

Sukio Iwatare, spokesman for the major opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP), told Reuters: "We don't deny the emperor's status as the symbol of the state (as defined in the U.S.-drafted post-war Japanese constitution)."

"But in the first 20 years of his reign, Japan waged wars in the name of the emperor. The period must be distinguished from the following 40 years," Iwatare, a member of the Lower House said. "The ceremony will help promote moves by conservative politicians to treat the emperor as head of state and use him for political purposes."

The JSP as well as the Japan Communist Party (JCP), which has the ultimate purpose of abolishing the emperor's role, are boycotting the ceremony as they did 10 years ago.

Iwatare also said: "Nakasone apparently wanted to hold the ceremony while he is still in power, and with a possible snap general election in June in mind, to help enhance his prestige. This feeling is shared by many politicians of different parties."

Emperor Hirohito ascended the chrysanthemum throne on Dec. 25, 1926 when his father Emperor Taisho died. He was crowned on Nov. 10, 1928.

"We advanced the date to next month not for political reasons but simply to avoid a cold season in consideration of the emperor's advanced age," a government spokesman said.

Mr. Nakasone's second two-year term as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) — and as prime minister by virtue of the party's parliamentary majority — expires on Oct. 30 this year.

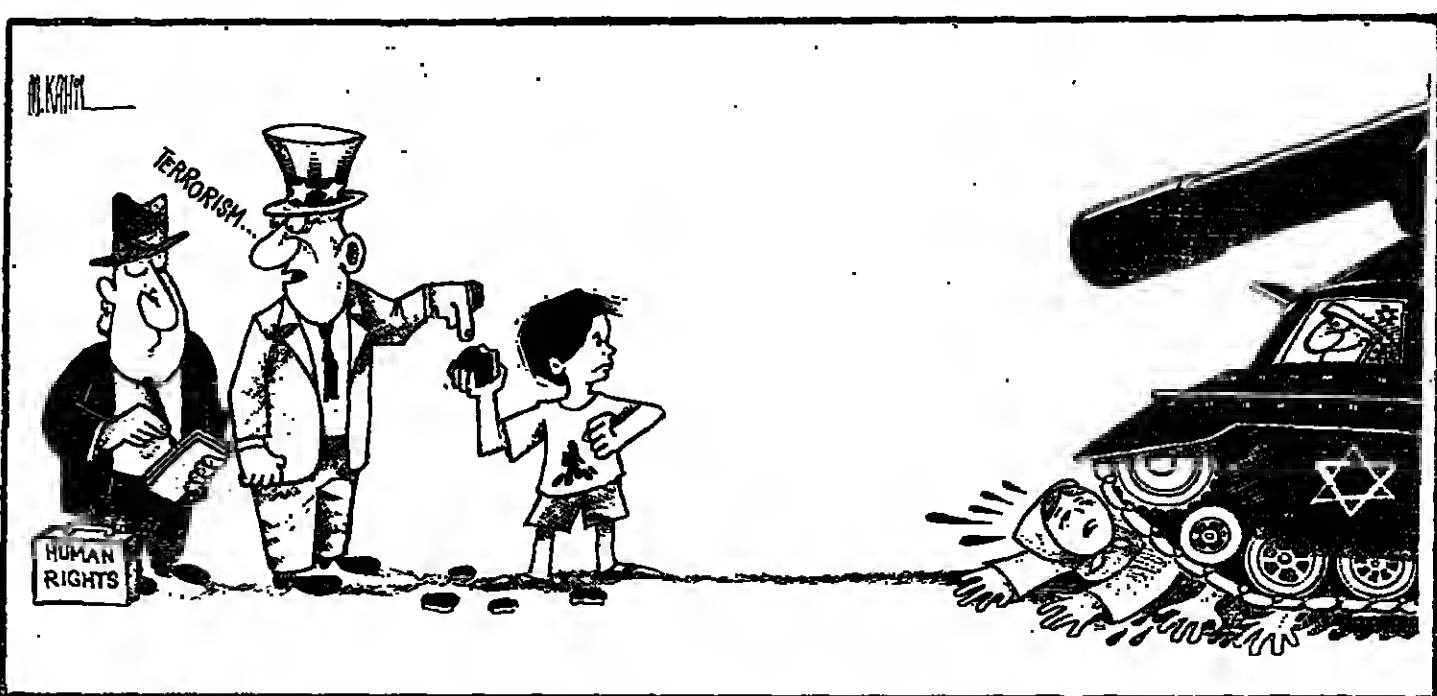
Mr. Nakasone has denied he is contemplating a snap general election or seeking a third term, banned under party rules.

Yomiuri Shinbun carried an opinion poll earlier this month saying that 72.4 per cent of those questioned supported the emperor as the symbol of the state and 71.6 per cent also supported the government for holding a modest ceremony for the 60th anniversary.

The government will issue 20 million gold coins, the first since 1932, to mark the occasion.

Though he is in good health, the emperor's daily engagements have been reduced in recent months. The emperor, an avid biologist, rarely appears before his people.

Two weeks ago he got up before dawn to peer through a telescope and become one of the few people on earth to see Halley's Comet twice in a lifetime.



Young Saudis discover that the oil recession is tough on careers

By Barbara Rosewitz
and Gerald F. Seib

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Until he found himself out of a job recently, Abdulrahman Al Sadhan was a typically high-flying young Saudi Arab.

Fresh out of college three years ago with a geography degree, he landed a job with a government agency so eager to hire educated Saudis that it paid him a 30 per cent salary bonus. Then he moved to a bank for a 40 per cent raise. Finally, he decided his future in banking would be even brighter if he learned English, so he moved to the U.S. to study.

But when the ambitious 26-year-old came home, he discovered that the oil recession had ended the days of limitless opportunity. His old bank wouldn't hire him back, and several others closed their doors in his face. After two months of looking for work, Mr. Sadhan is sitting in the employment office at King Faisal Specialist Hospital. "When I chose geography, I never thought there would be a hard time getting a job," says the bespectacled Mr. Sadhan, who thinks he has finally found a job in a hospital management training programme.

Young people such as Mr. Sadhan are victims of the most important social changes under way here. While the U.S. has its "baby boomers," these young Saudis are Saudi Arabia's "boom babies." They grew up amid the spoils of the decade-long oil boom that revolutionised their nation. Now they are coming of age only to find that the boom is over and they must lower their expectations.

Smaller paychecks

They don't have the same prospects for quick riches and met-

eoric ascents to prestigious job titles as their older brothers had. Instead, members of this pampered generation have landed on the doorstep of adulthood needing to learn job skills, to accept smaller paychecks or to take work Saudis never dreamed of doing before. Some must go months waiting to find the right job.

Many parents of these young people remember humbler days before the 1973 oil boom, raising chickens in the yard, living in mud houses or making their own sandals. But the children of the Saudi oil age grew up with "educated parents, TV and books all around," says Head Khuthaila, the dean of King Saud University's women's branch. "They are a spoiled generation," she concedes.

Ensuring that youths make a smooth transition from the boom days is an important task for the Saudi government. So far, there aren't any signs that young people are causing political problems, but Saudi Arabia can scarcely afford to have too many of them grow frustrated.

Technically, the problem isn't a shortage of jobs. The country has 2.6 million foreign workers, and it wants to send 600,000 of them home in the next five years and turn over much of their work to Saudis.

Beneath them

But many of these foreign workers are doing skilled technical work, unglamorous jobs or manual labour that young Saudis are untrained, or unwilling to do.

The transition is made all the more wrenching by social and cultural hurdles that have to be surmounted before young Saudis will be accepted the kinds of work many are being asked to do. Many of the young come from proud, roving Bedouin tribes that don't have a tradition of technical or manual work. To them success came to mean material luxuries, offices, titles and authority.

"They always want to be the head," explains Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, the governor of the central Saudi province of Qassim. "Not many young people want to be technicians.... They don't want to work on the farm and by their hands."

Certainly, though, the change is beginning to be felt. At the University of Petroleum and Minerals in the oil-field country near Dhahran, for example, Mohammed Rashid acknowledges that the civil engineering degree he will receive this year isn't worth as much as it was when he started college five years ago during the oil-fueled Saudi construction boom.

Useless degrees

Starting salaries for civil engineers have slipped to \$1,600 a month from \$2,700 just a few years ago, he says. What's more, employers are telling young engineers to "get experience first," notes the 23-year-old Mr. Rashid.

A basic problem is that lots of young Saudis simply aren't trained

for the work that needs to be done today. Demand exists for young Saudis with training in computers, accounting, science and mechanical trades to run the modern, industrialised nation Saudi Arabia spent a fortune developing. Yet 46 per cent of Saudi college students are enrolled in liberal arts and social sciences.

"What shall I do? My Major is History!" laments the headline of a recent story in a Riyadh newspaper about a college graduate distraught at being rejected for jobs. The story explains that many students simply choose the easiest college courses, thinking erroneously that any college degree was a ticket to success for a Saudi.

"We have to review our whole educational system and incentives," acknowledges Mansour Turki, the president of King Saud University here. "We have to encourage students to go into fields where we need them."

Slowly, this social metamorphosis is starting. More young Saudis are starting to get technical training. At the government-run Industrial Institute in Dammam, which teaches mechanics and metalworking, enrollment shot up to 563 students this year from just 315 three years ago. (Still, Saudi Arabia's vocational and technical schools are only about two-thirds full.)

Habib Salman, a 20-year-old student finishing up his training there in auto mechanics, is confident he will be able to find work more easily than his peers who are in college. "I'm the one who has the chance to find a job easily," he boasts as he takes a break from a noisy workshop where he has been reassembling a V-8 engine. "I have the technical skill."

Some Saudis are now stepping into jobs they might have regarded as beneath them five years ago, such as hotel clerks and even assembly-line workers. At the King Faisal Hospital, there now are 48 Saudis working as security guards; until recently, "security, for cultural reasons, people didn't want to do," says Fahad Abdul Jabbar, the hospital supervisor.

At cross-purposes

Still, there are plenty of obstacles to getting young Saudis into the jobs where they could be useful.

The government wants to nudge them away from government ministry jobs and into the private sector, which is supposed to lead the next stage of Saudi economic development. Yet it defeats its purpose by continuing to pay a \$13,700 hiring bonus to college graduates who take jobs at its ministries.

And many Saudis still openly prefer government work to more rigorous jobs in private business. One young Information Ministry employee recently turned down a \$33,000-a-year tax-free public relations job with a new hotel in the industrial city of Jubail, even though it offered more pay and fringe benefits than his five-day-a-week government post.

"It's really a good salary, but you may have to work the night shift until 7 a.m.," he explains. "Plus, it's six days a week. And it's hard work.... The guests complain."

For many technical jobs, employers simply don't want Saudi workers. Sometimes, employers complain, Saudis simply aren't trained for industrial work.

Or Saudis aren't willing to work for the low pay that is acceptable to Indian, Filipino or other foreign workers from poor lands. "For them (foreign workers), \$850 a month is very good," says Mohammed Abu Humous, a 22-year-old civil engineering student. "But for me, a Saudi, I think I can't live on \$850."

Seeking qualified Saudis

The Saudi government is trying to force more business to take Saudi workers. Beginning this year, it is making it difficult for foreign workers to renew job contracts or to change jobs if a qualified Saudi can take the post instead. But it remains to be seen whether Saudis will flock to those jobs without guarantees of higher pay than the foreign workers got.

While it grapples with the general problem of getting young people into the right slots, Saudi Arabia also is having to deal with a tricky parallel issue: satisfying the growing number of highly educated women in a male-dominated society that refuses to let men and women mix in the work place (except in hospitals).

"I think most educated women are now looking for a job after college," says Nawal Abalkhalil, a 28-year-old single woman who, five years ago, couldn't find a job with the government and the reform went to work in the women's branch of a bank. Now, government ministries are starting to establish segregated offices for women workers. Miss Abalkhalil says she may take a job with a ministry as a translator when she obtains the college degree she is working on.

Still, "It's not as easy for women as for men," says Aysa Al Ashkhal, a 27-year-old English major who lived five years in Atlanta. "It's very limited and very frustrating for women to work" in any areas except girls' schools, women's banks, hospitals and a few ministries, she says.

The Saudi government insists it won't be to blame if young people start grumbling over their lot in the job market. Saudis might be dissatisfied with the economic slowdown "the government's doing," says Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, the governor of the capital city of Riyadh. "But this is the world economy." Besides, he and others think the economic slowdown is bringing a healthy return to the work ethic.

And as long as the government can maintain enough oil revenue to provide free schooling, a monthly stipend to students and big grants and loans for houses, young people's complaints may well remain muted — Wall Street Journal.

Riots dash Egyptian hopes

By Kate Dourian
Reuter

CAIRO — Hopes that dollars spent by Western holidaymakers would help compensate Egypt for falling oil revenue have been dashed by a tourist slump since described security police rioted in February.

Officials estimate that earnings from tourism fell about \$1 billion a day following news stories and pictures of humed hotels near the 5,000-year-old Pyramids, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

While losses on this scale are unlikely to be permanent, tourism revenue could be cut to between \$300 and \$400 million in the fiscal year starting in June after \$600 million last year, according to unofficial calculations.

Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan spoke of a 40 per cent decline and an imminent crisis unless the situation improved.

Damage to the industry from the police riots, in which at least

107 people were killed and four big hotels gutted, could not have come at a worse time.

In addition, the riots presented an image of Egypt as unstable, with the government forced to clamp Cairo under a curfew for 10 nights just as it was recovering from an earlier round of adverse publicity.

Seizure of the Achille Lauro cruise liner and the hijack of an Egyptian plane to Malta late last year dented the country's image by linking it with Middle East violence.

Sultan condemned the police rioters' attacks on hotels and night clubs — convenient symbols of luxury — as "a campaign of terror against tourism" and sent a team of officials to the United States to promote holidays in Egypt.

The government promised up to \$500 in compensation to tourists who lost belongings in the riots and said ruined hotels should be rebuilt swiftly.

To attract new business, travel

agents are offering Nile cruise packages at bargain rates. One Western diplomat said: "If anyone calls me now, I shall tell them this is the best time to come."

The United States, Egypt's main aid donor, boosted Cairo's morale after the riots by freeing a \$150-million slice of frozen aid and publicly declaring the country stable.

"Embassies say they are not discouraging their nationals from coming here on holiday."

"On the contrary, we are welcoming tourists with open arms," said a spokeswoman for one Western embassy surveyed by Reuters.

A French spokesman said French tourists were the first to come to Cairo after the riots.

"The French are excellent clients here and I think they would be more worried by the hostage crisis in Lebanon" (where several Frenchmen are currently held prisoner), he said.

مكتبة الامام

JTV Programme Two preview

'At last patience rewarded'

By J.H. Boteler

ALL GOOD things come to him who waits. Primarily of course I am referring to this column, back home after a mad-cap romp through South East Asia, thereby rewarding the patience of its many faithful readers. Patience has also been rewarded by the long-awaited screenings, both on Tuesday night, of "The Brief" and "The Equalizer." (At first I thought that the inclusion of these in last Tuesday's "What's On" columns in this paper's page two was just another April Fool in a spoof-riddled Jordan Times, but ocular confirmation of the programmes followed later that night). But these are but two of the manifold new delights on offer in JTV's new cycle for Programme Two, so let us take each day in turn, and unearth the many surprises.

Saturday (tonight) and Sunday

Or, as the case may be, two days at a time. The reason for this rather bizarre approach is, as any astute JTV watcher will immediately appreciate, that venerable institution that occurs the first weekend in every month: The Mini-Series. Before we deal with that though there are a few other programmes to deal with, such as comedies. Sunday has more from Me And My Girl. Since this arrived just as I left, there is nothing that I can profitably say about it. Either you have been watching it avidly for the past month, and therefore know all about it, or you haven't — in which case nothing I could say will make you. Tonight's comedy though is a different matter. Since it is a welcome back to Duty Free, the saga of four rather idiotic Brits spending their redundancy money on a holiday in Spain. The first series concerned itself with the tragic and ill-fated love of David and Linda. The new series finds both couples still on holiday, (it must have been a very big redundancy cheque), and although the star-crossed lovers have assured their respective partners that it was a holiday romance which is now over, their feelings for each other are still simmering beneath the surface.

Music is the theme for the 9.10 slot on both days. Tonight has varieties, restored, after a lengthy break, to its full hour-long splendour. Sunday sees the start of a new documentary, entitled Man And Music. It is the story of music in place and time — firmly in the context of the world in which it came into being, giving a general picture of society at the time of any musical development. It embraces the western classical tradition from the Middle Ages to the present; but it looks, too, at the important influence of music outside the purely classical tradition — including jazz, folk and the music of the east. It is also about the people who created music, played it, commissioned it and listened to it. Each programme is self-contained, with a principal theme, with performances filmed, wherever possible, in the places for which the music was originally composed. The first programme, entitled Monteverdi In Mantua, studies the rise and development of church music in Italy and the birth of opera.

And so to the mini-series. The Long Hot Summer is one of those intense, brooding tales of the American deep South from the pen of William Faulkner. Down in sleepy Frenchman's Bend, Louisiana, live the Varners, your typical, everyday, representative family. Father Will (played by Jason Robards), domineering, tough, selfish and a blight on the family hearth; his wife Eula, a sultry temptress, emotionally unstable; sister Noel, a repressed school-teacher, with deep passions lur-

king under the surface; son Noel, weak-willed and living in his father's shadow. Enter Ben Quick, suspected arsonist, and the spark that ignites the powder keg that is Frenchman's Bend. Sounds great, doesn't it? However, one word of warning: Faulkner was not a writer much given to happy endings — nor fun-filled stories much either, come to think of it.

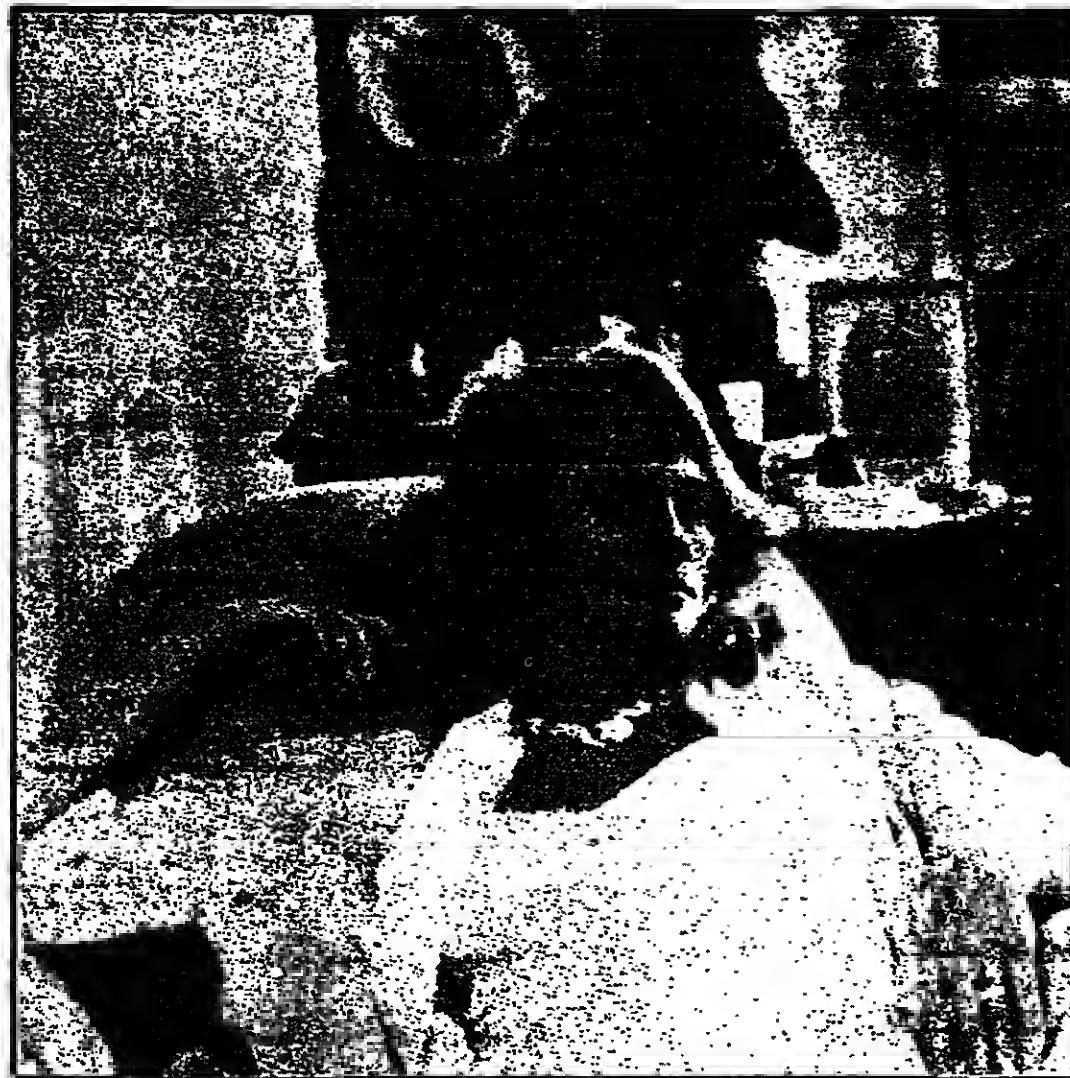
Monday

Not much needs to be said about the comedy, Carol Burnett And Friends. It is followed by Heart Of The High Country, a New Zealand effort along the lines of All The Rivers Run and A Fortunate Life. To ship-loads of hopeful British immigrants in the late 19th century New Zealand offered the chance of a new life in a new land. This series follows the fortunes of one such immigrant, a young English girl, Ceci. Spanning a period of twenty years, it is an epic tale of triumph over adversity (naturally), of a gritty young girl's struggle to survive against the odds in a man's world of physical hardship and emotional austerity. The first episode finds Ceci employed as a housekeeper to the brusque sheepfarmer Reg Bowen, his idiot brother Jack and their surly father, and striving against the odds to keep up her spirits and her standards. The only friendly face she encounters in this first lonely phase of her life is Ginger, a local cart-driver. Among the delights awaiting Ceci in the first episode are rape, pregnancy, an enforced marriage and a tragic accident. (It sounds rather like a case of a shotgun marriage terminated by a shotgun divorce). After all this it will no doubt be a relief to return to the tranquil, polite and refined world of Dallas, but don't ask me what the state of affairs is at the moment at Southfork; no doubt fairly traumatic.

Tuesday

All At No. 20 is a new comedy series, and tells the sad tale of Sheila, who was widowed eighteen months ago. Her husband's unexpected death left her no life insurance for herself or her pretty 20-year-old daughter, Monica; what she did leave was a hefty mortgage on "No. 20," and mum and daughter are faced with the awful prospect of having to sell a home full of happy memories. Sheila is an independent woman, so that rules out calling on the help of an old family friend, Richard Beaumish. But they do have the house — a large one — and they try to make an income for themselves by letting out rooms. It is up to Monica to find the first lodger. Maybe her friend Carol could help? And what about Chris, who has just come to London in search of the bright lights? Will they prove the solution to Sheila's predicament, or will they merely add to the problems? It all sounds fairly depressing, but the programme does come under the general heading of light entertainment.

We've already had one instalment of The Brief. (In actual fact, all new programmes from here on should have got past the first fence, but a little thing like that is not going to stop me prattling on about them. Talking of fences, all you racing fans should tune into the BBC World Service today at about ten past five for the Grand National). So what are we to make of The Brief? One thing I'm pretty sure of, and that is that things are not as simple as they appeared in the first episode. Apart from the growing threats to upright Lucas's virtue posed by various siren-like frauleins, there are evidently some pretty murky undercurrents and very questionable activities being practised



Some pictures speak louder than words. The Long Hot Summer, tonight and tomorrow, 10.20

by the BFOR (British Forces On the Rhine). The whole situation could be cleared up in a trice if they just called in The Equalizer. After some very promising opening credits, this rapidly turns into a fairly predictable cops-and-robbers show, but it does have one highly redeeming feature: To wit, Edward Woodward. The character he plays has the usual attributes of the TV detective hero: Lethal marksman, Grand Prix driving skills, high ideals, a winsome smile; but he has one character trait not normally found in the other Macho honchos: He is innately modest. Breathed last week's starchy-eyed and grateful (ex) damsel-in-distress: "I'd like to get to know you better." "No you wouldn't," quoth our hero (albeit somewhat tersely). Come, Sir, you demean yourself. True, Robert McCall did once work for the CIA, but the impending moral dilemma posed by this was swiftly nullified when he resigned, on a point of principle. This left him pure and virtuous, whilst still retaining lots of useful "Company" contacts. Add to this a big friend in the police, and it is evident that McCall is the goods. I mean, he even has a culture-vulture of a son, who beavers away industriously on a violin in some high-brow orchestra. What more could a man desire? (Apart from a leap jet and an island in the South Seas, that is).

Wednesday

This is fairly action-packed, comprising as it does the seemingly never-ending Three's Company, (this week Jack gets conned into taking over a lemon of a run-down restaurant), and another highly educational and informative documentary series. This one is called Discovery, and although its delights are as yet to me unknown, I think its general structure can be inferred from the tide. At half-an-hour though it promises to be short and sweet, and it is followed by another half-hour programme, Alfred Hitchcock Presents. What the producers have done is take the original 1960's classic series of the same name, and re-shot them with a new cast. They have retained the original footage of the master

waddling on to introduce and conclude each episode BUT, (a prospect more horrifying possibly than any of the stories) they have "coloured in" the black-and-white footage of him, which is a pity. The evening is concluded by a new series called Sins, starring Joan Collins. That really says it all, but I suppose I should add that Joanne plays the part of Helene Junot, in charge of some mega-huge magazine empire, and played by the memories of her childhood in war-time France. (So, though she may not look it, she is at least acting her age). She

Thursday

This is very easily dealt with, since it includes a very welcome return of the Lassies, father and son doctors, in Don't Walk Up. more Antipodean skulduggery from Return To Eden, and a feature film. This week's is called The Promise, and I can only assume that it is the 1969 production starring Ian McKellen. Two young men and a girl share a flat after the 1942 siege of Leningrad and thirteen years later, their dreams of life considerably modified, they meet again and change partners.

Friday

For the time being this continues with the irrepressible Mr. Belvedere. This is followed by another new series, My Brother Jonathan. Adapted from the novel by Francis Brett Young, the story is set in the Black Country in the heart of England — a mixed area of beautiful countryside and bleak industrial towns, splendid mansions and overcrowded slums. Eugene Dakers considers himself first and foremost a poet. The fact that he has to earn a living "doing something in the city" is an irritation, but it certainly does not stop him living far beyond his means by educating his beloved son Harold at Eton. His wife Lavinia, who was once a minor Shakespearean actress, also adores Harold. But neither can understand how they produced such an awkward, unattractive and untalented child as Jonathan, their elder son. It is in these circumstances that Jonathan grows up. But although he is sent only to the local grammar school, by hard work and perseverance he succeeds in qualifying as a doctor. But his lot could have been worse: He could have grown up in the ghastly environs of Falcon Crest, which winds up the week's viewing. So there you have it: quite a bit of new, a fair amount of old, and a few tried and trusted returns from previous cycles. And of course myself, to plague you every week. Isn't life grand?

Saturday

Mr. Belvedere 8.30
My Brother Jonathan 9.10
Falcon Crest 10.20

Sunday

Me And My Girl 8.30
Man And Music 9.10
Mini Series:
The Long Hot Summer
(Conclusion) 10.20

Monday

Carol Burnett And Friends 8.30
Heart Of The High Country 9.10
Dallas 10.20

Tuesday

All At No. 20 8.30
The Brief 9.10
The Equalizer 10.20

Wednesday

Three's Company 8.30
Discovery 9.00
Alfred Hitchcock Presents 9.30
Sins 10.20

Thursday

Don't Walk Up 8.30
Return To Eden 9.10
Feature Film: The Promise 10.20

Friday

Mr. Belvedere 8.30
My Brother Jonathan 9.10
Falcon Crest 10.20

Theatre club sets the stage for another musical success

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Rather than sit back on their laurels after last year's extremely successful production of "Oliver," the Royal Theatre Club have gone on to present another musical, this time "Annie." The opening night Monday April 7 is eagerly awaited, for "Annie," like "Oliver," is being directed and produced by Mrs. Vanessa Batrouni whose creative and talented energy was largely responsible for the tremendous professionalism and popularity of "Oliver."

"Annie," the rags to riches story of an orphan girl, was chosen because it is a musical pre-eminently by children for children and since one of the main aims of the Royal Theatre Club is to introduce theatre to children, "Annie," with its immediate appeal and large cast, fits the bill.

"We also feel it is important to stage musicals in preference to straight English plays," said the president of the Royal Theatre Club, Mrs. Ginny Toukan, "as songs have the ability to cross language barriers."

But if there are advantages to staging "Annie" there are also disadvantages and the problem of making the musical relevant and feasible for audiences here in Jordan was left to Mrs. Batrouni.

"When I got the go ahead to do "Annie," Mrs. Batrouni said, "I was told to get in touch with architect Sa'ad Batayneh who was interested in doing the sets. Up until that point I hadn't any really fixed ideas on how to interpret Annie, but gradually by working with Sa'ad and his design ideas, my whole conception of how I wanted Annie to be started to formulate."

Variations on a theme

"Annie" has in the past always been performed as a kind of a fantasy, epitomising as it does the "American dream" where anyone can make it to the top of the ladder by the sheer force of their personality. Full of ice cream, birthday cakes, Santa Claus and sleigh bells, previous productions of the musical went in no mean way for sentimentality, reducing all who saw it to tears. The whole show became unreal with larger than life, two dimensional stereotype characters.

But that was not how Mrs. Batrouni saw the Jordanian version of Annie. "We just couldn't take the American dream seriously," she said, "so we cut it down to size. I've tried to take the glucose out of it, but I have put it in its right place — in the cartoon world, in the unreal world of the media and I've tried to replace the sentimentality with more real poignant moments. By doing this we hope the local children will understand from the story that it is good to be tough and optimistic in the face of life's ups and downs, rather than that anyone can become a millionaire if they really want to. There isn't a message in our version of Annie."

Mrs. Batrouni stressed, "but if there is one, it isn't intentional." It also seemed to both Mrs. Batrouni and Mr. Batayneh that the author of Annie, Thomas Meehan, had put a lot more into the script about the actual era — the 1930's — in which the play had been set, than had previously been shown. Meehan had quite obviously made some extensive research into the Depression years as the script is peppered with the actual names of contemporary politicians and one of the numbers was written solely about the Hoovervilles, shanty towns built literally out of cardboard, nicknamed after the man most of the unemployed blamed for their condition. In an attempt to convey this strong feeling of period Mrs. Batrouni, after watching many wonderful thirties films, tried to get the actors, particularly the servants and the gangsters, to emulate the movements and the idiosyncrasies of the time, while the orphanage children do a famous "Rockettes" lineup.

"By showing the period, which was a very rich one artistically and musically, like this we hope the play will become educational," said Mrs. Batrouni.



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Opposite sides of the street

Also running throughout the script is the contrast between the rich and the poor, the mansion and the orphanage, the jazz, glamour and gaiety and the depression. To accentuate these contrasts Mr. Batayneh designed the set so that it was divided in two by a road that runs up the middle. On one side is the mansion, on the other the orphanage. The lushness of the mansion is reflected by a wall of mirrors which in turn reflect the orphanage and its poverty.

Many of the songs from the musical are well known and loved, particularly Annie's signature tune, "Tomorrow" which in this production she always sings under a rainbow lit with fireworks. Few, however, realise just how good the entire musical score for Annie is. Beautifully written by Charles Swousse, it incorporates all the richness and variety of the music of the thirties. Bars of Germaine and lots of jazz have been woven together to produce a wonderfully composed musical.

"To draw attention to this highly complex score, the musicians, dressed up in tails, play on stage throughout the show," said Mrs. Batrouni. "They are in fact the band providing the music for the dancefloor — the apron of the stage."

"Whenever the scene goes into a dance number," Mrs. Batrouni continued, "the action, from both sides, rich and poor, spills down onto this dancefloor. This works well as I have never really liked the way the actors in traditional musicals suddenly burst into song, destroying the reality."

Visually appealing

Both Mrs. Batrouni in her direction and Mr. Batayneh in his sets have tried to make the show as appealing to children as possible. The sets are visually exciting, incorporating bright colours and cardboard cummets of everything from Swiss cheeses to clouds and one scene includes a slide show featuring many of the famous actors of the time — Fred Astaire, Clark Gable and Charlie Chaplin. Playing for laughs, Mrs. Batrouni has given some of the characters silly walks and other crazy mannerisms. The show finishes with a big birthday party celebrated to the full with balloons, gifts, cakes, games and streamers.

"Previous productions of Annie have always had a big Broadway finale with showbiz entrances down huge ornate staircases of an enormous cast of dancers and singers. We just physically couldn't do that so we changed what was supposed to be a Christmas party to a birthday party — which we felt was much more relevant to Jordanian anyway — and made it much smaller," said Mrs. Batrouni.

Theatre training

One of the problems with the party scene however was getting the children to act naturally — to really enjoy the party. With the help of drama teacher, Mrs. Vicki Kayyal, who will be starting a children's drama workshop after the show closes, Mrs. Batrouni feels the children have at last loosened up, in fact, have become children. "This is where theatre training is so important," said Mrs. Batrouni. "If the children had had more drama training, either in school or in a workshop such as Mrs. Kayyal will be starting soon, training the children for Annie would have taken much less time and work."

The children taking part in Annie have enjoyed every minute of the rehearsals and have gained much by their participation and, if nothing else, this production of Annie will have given them an invaluable experience and much pleasure. However the general feeling is that Annie will give pleasure to many, many more than just those who have taken part.

As Mrs. Batrouni says: "We have been very ambitious, but if it works out it will be quite an achievement."

Annie opens Monday April 7 and runs until Monday April 21. All evening performances will start at 7.30 p.m. in the main auditorium at the Royal Cultural Centre. Tickets for the Gala Opening are JD 10 while the tickets for the other performances are JD 3.5 for adults and JD 2.5 for children under 18.

Oldest surviving reptiles, turtles made for endurance

WASHINGTON — Their ancestors roamed the earth some 275 million years ago, even before the Appalachian Mountains were formed. The first recognisable member of the species appears in the fossil record about 185 million years ago, many eons before the peak of the dinosaurs. And today, long after the dinosaurs' demise, the turtle remains, its dome still perched on its back.

"Turtles seem to have hit on a good, conservative thing," says Dr. Archie Carr, a world authority on them. "Turtles cling to their basic structural design, while many other animals experimented their way into extinction."

Many unique features help the turtle survive in an increasingly hostile world, writes freshwater-turtle specialist Christopher P. White in the January National Geographic.

Very flexible neck

The turtle's protective shell actually consists of two parts — the top half, called the carapace, and

the lower half, the plastron. Eight vertebrae in this reptile's neck, compared with the seven of most mammals, allow most turtles to fold their necks and retract into their shells. Most turtles also can retract all four limbs as well as their head between the two shells.

In addition to breathing through a set of lungs, freshwater turtles can use their mouth cavity in gill-like fashion. Water is drawn through the nostrils, oxygen absorbed in the mouth, and the water expelled. A few turtles can even absorb small amounts of oxygen through their skin while submerged in mud.

Aquatic turtles have little in common with the poky tortoise that almost lost the race to the hare. They're extremely fast. The smooth softshell turtle, for example, can outswim the speedy brook trout. Webbing between toes increases swimming speed while allowing some species to walk underwater to browse.

The world's 180 kinds of freshwater turtles include animals patterned with dots, splashes, and

hieroglyphs. The spotted turtle, for instance, is sprinkled with dozens of yellow polka dots. The markings on the juvenile map turtle resemble contours on an ancient chart.

Freshwater turtles vary in size from the stinkpot, a three-inch-long variety that exudes a musky fluid when disturbed, to the alligator snapper, a giant native of the south-central United States that can weigh up to 250 pounds.

The bane of the alligator snapper is legendary. "Late one night 16 years ago," related a veteran Florida turtle hunter, "my son and I pulled an old 75-pound alligator snapper out of a swamp. Like a fool I put the snapper right behind me in the boat. After a time we got stuck in some reeds, so I reached back for a paddle and slam! — something hit my hand so fast I didn't know what had happened. Then all of a sudden there was blood everywhere, and my son was shouting, 'Dad, two of your fingers just dropped into the bottom of the boat!'"

Those who dare to peer into an

alligator snapper's mouth would see a rose-coloured wormlike appendage projecting from its tongue, used to lure minnows. Dissected stomachs of alligator snappers have turned up baby alligators, raccoons, snakes, acorns, shoes, and other turtles.

The increasingly rare alligator snapper is still legally hunted in many states. A few other turtle species, such as New England's Plymouth red-bellied turtle, are in more serious trouble. Considered endangered since 1980, a few hundred red-bellies survive in glacial ponds with the help of conservationists.

One threat to some freshwater turtles' survival is a slow rate of reproduction. Mating can be elaborate. Each species has a courtship ritual of its own. Common snapping turtles, for example, face each other and sweep their heads from side to side in opposite directions. After several minutes, the two turtles return their heads to dead centre and stare at each other for a while before mating. The male red-eared slider tic-

kles the female's neck as he swims backward and she forward. The two eventually sink to the pond bottom, where they mate.

Author White, diving in a Florida river, is the first to fully describe the courtship dance of the peninsula coot:

"The female is as large as my diving flipper, the male less than half her size. He rides like a hitchhiker atop her carapace, while green strands of algae resembling gossamer threads trail from their shells."

"With forefeet pressed to each side of her yellow-and-black neck, the male gently tickles her with his needle-sharp claws. Like kites reeled in on a string, the pair drifts slowly downward, she's immobile but legs and tails parading..."

"Suddenly the male cooter slides backward on his mate's shell, his tail curving beneath her own. At this moment mating takes place. The pair passes by, oblivious of me in the trance of their embrace..."

— National Geographic News Service.

Young Chinese campaign for bad character assassination

China claims that it has tidied up its drains and now wants to clean up the calligraphy of its written language. So Peking has enlisted peonist pre-pubescent pioneers to make the linguistic atmosphere sparkle.

Robert Thomson reports.

PEKING — Now that the anti-spitting campaign has dried up and the drive against dangerous cycling has slowed, pre-pubescent Chinese children are roaming the streets of Peking in "wrong character correction teams" looking for sloppy calligraphy.

The crackdown on bad writing is being led by the "Young Pioneers," some of whom are giving their parents dictation tests in a bid to raise calligraphic consciousness. Others are scouring the streets for public signs with "bad characters" and admonishing those responsible.

The use of children in the campaign follows a widely-publicised letter written by a school class condemning excesses by officials. For some Chinese it stirs bitter memories of the marauding bands of children, inspired by Chairman Mao, who wrought havoc during the 10-year Cultural Revolution which ended in 1976.

Membership of the "Young Pioneers," a primary schoolchildren's organisation guided

mayor, Jin Jian, has offered words of encouragement, calling the incorrect use of characters "cultural rubbish," which he hopes the children can help sweep away.

Such campaigns are supposed to increase the children's sense of "social responsibility," but their parading through factories and offices telling workers how to write is more disruptive than anything else.

A more useful drive to clean up the language has been undertaken by the recently formed State Commission of Language Planning, which aims to ensure that "all Chinese will speak the same tongue by the year 2000."

The written language, which originated about 3,000 years ago as a series of drawings, was simplified through pruning strokes by the Communist government in the 1950s in an attempt to aid literacy.

A second attempt at simplification was made in 1978, when 800 characters were designated for pruning, but the move so angered older Chinese, who were unable to understand the new script, that the government was forced to discard the idea. — Financial Times news feature.

Kenyans knock out Thais in King's Cup

BANGKOK (R) — Two Kenyan boxers scored knockouts over Thai opponents Thursday night in the 12th King's Cup tournament.

Featherweight M. Mutua knocked out Krachak Khejareon in one minute 20 seconds of the first round and is now favourite to win that division.

Light welterweight C. Karuki beat Thailand's Wanlert Pukamnee when the referee stopped the fight in the first round after giving Pukamnee three standing counts.

In other featherweight bouts, Australian Roger Spierli outpointed Nepal's Pankaj Tuladhar 5-0, Japan's Toshiyuki Kiyosawa defeated India's S. Nityanandan 5-0 and Albert Kanyan of the Soviet Union beat Australian Allen Warren 4-1.

Welterweight David Kamau gave Kenya its third win of the night, narrowly outpointing Denmark's Soren Sondergaard 3-2.

But Kenyan Chris Sande, the

defending welterweight champion who was nominated best boxer of the tournament last year, lost on points to Thailand's Samruay Mongson after a sluggish performance.

Kenyan team manager David Nyenga told Reuters he thought Sande had over-trained. "Still I am pleased with tonight's performances. We won three fights," Nyenga added.

Zapata favoured to retain WBA flyweight title

Meanwhile, World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Hilario Zapata of Panama is favoured to retain his title when he meets Japanese challenger Shuichi Hozumi on Monday night.

Zapata is making his second defence of the WBA flyweight title. He won the vacant title last October and outpointed Javier Lucas of Mexico in his first defence last January.

Japan's former World Boxing Council (WBC) light-flyweight champion Shigeo Nakajima, who lost his title to Zapata in March 1980, said the 27-year-old Panamanian appeared in fine condition.

"He is hard to fight because he works on the body. But Hozumi has a chance to win it if he could stop his rushes with right uppercut counter-punches," Nakajima said.

The fight will be Hozumi's second attempt for the WBA title. In his first challenge he was knocked out in the second round by former

world champion Santos Laciar of Argentina in May 1983.

Mark Breland gets chance to avenge lone defeat

In other events, Olympic welterweight gold medalist Mark Breland, who has lost only one of 121 amateur and professional fights, will get a chance to avenge that lone defeat when he meets Darryl Anthony on April 12.

The rematch will be held five years after Anthony scored a close three-round decision over Breland in the U.S. Amateur Boxing Championships in Concord, California. It was Breland's only defeat in 111 amateur bouts, which included six victories in the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Since turning professional 16 months ago, the 22-year-old Breland has won 10 straight fights — five by decision and five by knockout.

After posting a 200-15 record as an amateur, Anthony, 27, turned professional in 1982 and has

since won 22 bouts, 16 by knockout. He has lost twice and drawn twice.

Breland said he still vividly recalled the first fight in 1981.

"He was stronger than me and he overpowered me," Breland told a small group of reporters in a midtown Manhattan restaurant. "He also had far more experience. Since I had had only 25 fights, while he had about 100. And I was 17 years old and he was 22. Still, I thought I beat him."

Breland, generally regarded as the best fighter among the 1984 Olympic boxers, but who has not been overly impressive as a professional, said he thought he had improved far more than Anthony in the past five years.

"I've improved a lot since the first fight," he said, "while he's basically the same fighter. He just has one style — to come right at you. And I'm also much stronger, both physically and mentally."

Breland said he was eager to erase the only blemish on his record. "I've thought about this fight for a long time, and I'm glad it's

finally going to happen."

Anthony, who is only three credit hours short of obtaining a degree in accounting at Florissant Community College in St. Louis, where he lives, said he planned to use the same tactics that proved effective in their first bout.

"My jab and my fast hands kept him backing up throughout the first fight," Anthony said by telephone from St. Louis. "You have to put pressure on Mark, as I did in our first fight. But most of his opponents give him too much respect and stay away."

Anthony said he was not envious of Breland's fame, success or the hundreds of thousands of dollars he has earned during his brief career as a professional.

"I don't envy Mark at all," said Anthony, whose biggest purse has been \$3,000. "He worked harder than I did as a fighter, and I spent more time concentrating on my studies."

"But I knew a rematch was going to happen, and that it was just a matter of time," he said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday meets members of a visiting Chinese Tae Kwan Do team which staged a performance in martial arts. The performance took place at the Royal Guard Battalion. The same team performed at Yarmouk University on Wednesday.

presented gifts to the team members. Attending with Prince Hassan were Prince Rasheed and Jordanian officials.

The Chinese team is visiting Jordan at the invitation of Prince Hassan, who is president of the Jordanian Tae Kwan Do Federation (Petra photo)

Tigana boosts Bordeaux future plans

PARIS (R) — French soccer star Jean Tigana has extended his contract with Bordeaux for a further five years, giving a major boost to the defending French champions' ambitious plans for the future.

The 30-year-old World Cup midfielder, whose skill and tenacity attracted the attention of clubs from Italy to England, signed the new contract Thursday, Bordeaux press spokesman Jean Menard told Reuters.

Tigana, born in the Mali capital of Bamako, joined Bordeaux in 1981 from Lyons and helped them to successive league titles in 1984 and 1985.

Bordeaux, upstaged by Paris Saint-Germain in the race for this season's first division title, also expect soon to seal the signing of Yugoslav twins Zlatko and Zoran Vujovic, and French midfielder Philippe Vercruysse.

The Vujovic brothers and their club Hajduk Split have agreed in principle with Bordeaux to contracts of two years and an optional third, Menard said.

Vercruysse, an impressive stand-in for Michel Platini in last week's 2-0 win over Argentina in Paris, has agreed to a three-year contract and Bordeaux will compensate his present club Lens for the two remaining years of his

accord with them.

The arrival of the Vujovic brothers and restrictions on the number of foreign players on the pitch pose problems for Bordeaux who already have injury-plagued Fernando Chalana of Portugal and West German striker Uwe Reinders in their squad.

Chalana, signed for a reported 18 million francs (\$2.5 million) after his superb displays.

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THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL

Applications are invited for the posts of:

1. Teacher of Computing in Senior School, competent to teach Computer Studies to GCE 'O' and 'A' levels.
2. Economics teacher, competent to teach to GCE 'O' and 'A' levels.

Applicants to these posts should have a relevant university degree and either a teaching qualification or at least three years teaching experience.

3. KG Assistant. A native speaker of English required, with some nursery/teaching background. The post involves helping with general supervision within the KG and working with small groups of students under the direction of the class teacher.

Application forms are available from the school, and should be completed and returned by Saturday 12 April 1986.

NOTICE JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY PREQUALIFICATION OF CIVIL WORKS CONTRACTORS AQABA THERMAL POWER STATION STAGE II

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) intends to issue forms for prequalifications of contractors for civil works for the extension of Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The stage II expansion consists of 2 x 130 MW dual fired steam electric generating units cooled by sea water. The civil works contract involves large sophisticated civil and marine works such as foundation works for the steam turbines, generators, boilers, and all other mechanical and electrical auxiliary equipment as well as supply and installation of yard piping, all concrete and structural buildings, building services, excavations, roads, drainage systems, and etc. It is hoped that contractors with similar experience in this type of work would participate in this tender.

Arab and international development funds will participate in financing this project. Forms of prequalifications will be available from:

Jordan Electricity Authority
Purchase and Procurement Department
Jabal Amman - Seventh Circle
Tel: 815615
P.O. Box 2310
Amman - Jordan

Starting from 2.4.1986 for a non-returnable fee of JD 30 (90 U.S. dollars) for each set (2 copies each) payable to JEA.

The last day for accepting the prequalification forms, filled in, will be 15.5.1986 before 12:00 a.m. at the procurement and purchase department, JEA offices - Amman.

SAVE THE CHILDREN RUG EXHIBITION

The public is invited to an exhibition of rugs woven by the Bedouin women of Jabal Bani Hamida, at Qasr Mamdouh Bisharat at Um Al-Kundum on Friday & Saturday April 4-5 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Jordan summer time. (Take Airport Highway from 7th Circle. After 15 km turn right at Yadoudeh/Arab Horse Club turn-off. Go 1/2 km uphill toward Horse Club and take 1st left.) Orders for rugs can be made at the exhibition. Help 100 women increase their income.



The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Ahilyah Girls School. Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight

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Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m. 6:30 - Midnight



Authentic Chinese food. Friendly service. Convenient location.

Also take-away service. Open daily: Noon - 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. - midnight

Location: Near 3rd Circle, opposite to Akliah Hospital

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AQABA

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Dr. Hisham Al Arida Dermatologist and Venereologist

A former lecturer in dermatology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jordan announces

the opening of his clinic at the Medical Centre - Jabal Al Hussein, opposite the Ministry of Health, as of Saturday 12.3.1986

Clinic hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Clinic telephone: 694935

Residence telephone: 897199

Cinema
CONCORD
Tel: 677320

MISCHIEF
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 625155

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cine Theatre
Philadelphia
Tel: 634144 - 634149

RUNAWAY
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198

ZANJEER
(Colour)

Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema
OPERA
Abdull. behind Alfa offices
Tel: 675573

PERFECT
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

مكتبة الأمل

Assembly employees demonstrate in front of Aquino's residence

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — About 300 employees of the abolished National Assembly picketed President Corazon Aquino's house Friday, asking her to allow them to keep their jobs.

The employees, who included lawyers, writers and typists from the assembly's secretariat, said they wanted their services retained for a commission Mrs. Aquino has said she will form to draft a new Philippine constitution.

The commission is to be housed in the assembly building.

"Who will take care of us?" read one placard held by a protester who, like the others, wore a white headband to show neutrality. The assembly had been dominated by deposed President Ferdinand Marcos' New Society Movement (KBL).

The demonstrators said they were not questioning Mrs. Aquino's decision to abolish the assembly but merely wanted to keep their jobs.

The employees prayed the rosary and sang a nationalist song. A local official approached the protesters and told them their case would be presented to the president.

They left before Mrs. Aquino

emerged from her house on her way to her office at a guest house next to the Malacanang Presidential Palace.

The protesters said in a statement that it would cost the government only 25 million pesos (\$1.25 million) a year to keep the staff compared to almost double that amount if they were to be fired and paid separation pay and other benefits.

Meanwhile Communist rebels have responded to Mrs. Aquino's call for ceasefire talks and the government is selecting an emissary to meet them, a presidential spokesman said Thursday.

He said the palace Thursday received a statement by the outlawed National Democratic Front (NDF) apparently setting out terms for the talks.

"We are in the process of selecting an emissary to get in touch with an opposite number in the NDF," spokesman Rene Saguisag told reporters.

But political sources said it was

not clear whether the NDF reply went any further than what has been reported in Philippine newspapers during the past 10 days.

The NDF, an umbrella organization that includes the banned Communist Party and its New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas, issued an offer for peace talks through an interview by one of its leaders with selected Filipino journalists.

Mr. Saguisag said he had seen but not read the NDF "response." But from the way he described the two-page document it appeared to be identical to the previous offer.

The statement quoted NDF leader Antonio Zume as saying ceasefire talks were possible without pre-conditions.

"With just, sincere and prudent moves of the concerned parties, a negotiated peace is possible on a nationwide scale," he said.

"This statement takes precedence over other views expressed in different areas and various levels of leadership, whether in the NDF, the party or the NPA."

Mrs. Aquino offered ceasefire

or peace talks with the NPA during the election campaign and repeated it after President Fer-

dinand Marcos was toppled in February by a civilian-backed military revolt.

But there was no immediate reply from the NPA and military reports indicate the level of guerrilla activity might even have increased since she assumed power.

The state-run Philippine News Agency meanwhile quoted Vice-President Salvador Laurel as saying the government was negotiating with Muslim guerrilla leaders on ending their insurgency on southern Mindanao Island.

"We are now in a process of working out a formula," Mr. Laurel said. "The negotiation is being undertaken by... emissaries. There is no publicity because we could not afford too much publicity."

The agency said Mr. Laurel was responding to news items which said the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) would resume its guerrilla war if negotiations were not completed by June.

Macapantun Abbas, MNLF political and foreign affairs chairman, told Reuters on Tuesday: "We want the negotiations before the constitutional convention so that the agreements can be incorporated in the constitution."

Mr. Gorbachev told the Soviet Communist Party congress in February that Moscow and Kabul had drawn up a timetable for withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The timetable, whose details

Howe calls on Soviets to leave Afghanistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Friday urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to act on recent suggestions that he was willing to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Addressing Afghan exiles at the Kacha Garhi Refugee Camp, Sir Geoffrey borrowed Mr. Gorbachev's own phrase in calling Afghanistan "a bleeding wound" and condemned what he called the heavy cost of "Soviet aggression" there.

He also announced Britain would increase its aid to Afghan refugees by 17 per cent to £4.8 million this year.

"Mr. Gorbachev has talked of a timetable for withdrawal and that is all very well," said Sir Geoffrey, who is on a four-day visit to Pakistan.

"After more than six years of Soviet occupation, the time has come for action, not words," he told a crowd of about 300 refugees gathered in this camp of mud houses and dusty paths.

Mr. Gorbachev told the Soviet Communist Party congress in February that Moscow and Kabul had drawn up a timetable for withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The timetable, whose details

Soviets accuse Britain of imperial ambitions

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet newspaper said Friday that Britain had new imperial ambitions and wanted to develop its military role outside the sphere of NATO.

The army daily Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) said these ambitions, involving high military spending against the national interest, grew after Britain's victory in its 1982 war against Argentina over the Falklands Islands.

"From that day it may be considered that the policies of the English Conservatives entered a new phase — imperial policies aimed at restoring Britain's former greatness and increasing England's military role outside the sphere of NATO," the paper said.

The article, headlined "hanging on the coat-tails of Uncle Sam," said Britain could not achieve such ambitions without U.S. help and for that reason had subordinated its foreign policy to Washington.

An example of this was London's rejection of Soviet proposals to eliminate nuclear arms by the year 2000, it said.

A separate article in the Communist Party daily Pravda accused

London of using tensions in Northern Ireland to force the Irish Republic into the "military-political net of NATO."

Meanwhile Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Friday Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe showed the "classical hypocrisy of British diplomacy" by failing to follow up condemnation of Sikh extremism with action on his recent trip to India.

The official Soviet agency noted that in his talks with Indian leaders, Sir Geoffrey agreed that tough measures should be taken against British-based Sikh extremists wanting to separate Punjab state from India.

Anti-Indian publications and broadcasts were still being allowed in Britain while "subversive centres of Sikh separatists" were operating in the country, TASS added.

"Is it not evidence of hypocrisy of the British authorities when words about 'measures' against Sikh terrorists are reconciled with complicity with the criminals?" it asked.

U.S. offers to help Haiti recover Duvalier fortune

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs has offered American help to Haiti in its efforts to recover ex-president Jean-Claude Duvalier's fortune.

"We want to and we will (help) in every way we can," Elliott Abrams said at the airport at the end of fact-finding trip.

He said Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy, president of the Interim National Council, had been very clear about the government's desire to get the money back.

Mr. Abrams said that tracing and recovering Duvalier's money would be harder than finding that of deposed Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos because the United States had access to some of Marcos' documentation, but not to Duvalier's.

Several foreign law firms have offered the Haitian government their services in tracing and recovering the hundreds of millions alleged to have been embezzled by Jean-Claude Duvalier, toppled in February, and his father and predecessor, Francois Duvalier, sources close to the government have said.

Mr. Abrams said he had come on a two-day fact-finding visit "to see first hand what has been accomplished to date" and to meet and review with Haiti's new leaders "all the needs of Haiti."

He said Haiti's new leaders needed a modernised and professional "new military to maintain order." They had asked for American aid in training their forces and he would recommend that such training be provided, he said.

Praising the recent Haitian revolution which ousted Jean-Claude Duvalier, Mr. Abrams said: "It will take time to create a new system of government and repair the damage of 29 years of despotic rule" under the Duvaliers.

Respect for human rights, free trade unions and freedom of the press were essential ingredients, he said, but "Haiti's most pressing need is for food and jobs."

The United States had already provided almost \$60 million this fiscal year, including an emergency shipment of wheat last month and another shipment of wheat and oil which Mr. Abrams said was "on the way."

Asked about American links with Haiti during the 29 years of the Duvalier regime, Mr. Abrams said the United States had dealt with but did not support the regime.

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Stalin's grandchild to return to U.K.

LONDON (R) — The teenage grand-daughter of Josef Stalin was granted a visa to return to Britain Friday — with Soviet blessing.

American-born Olga Peters, 16, is flying back to resume her education at a Quaker school outside London after just 18 months in the Soviet Union.

But there was no word on her mother, Svetlana Alliluyeva, 60, who is also reported to be unhappy in the Soviet Union and wishing to return to the West.

The Home Office (interior ministry) said Olga would be granted a student's visa valid for 12 months and renewable.

Her visa request was passed to the British embassy in Moscow by the Soviet Foreign Ministry earlier this week. It described her as a Soviet citizen although she was born and raised in the United States.

Her mother, who caused a sensation by defecting to the West in 1967, had her Soviet citizenship restored when she returned to the Soviet Union with Olga in 1984.

Victor Louis, a well-connected Soviet journalist, said this week that Ms. Alliluyeva might have trouble in revoking her Soviet citizenship and leaving the country a second time.

Olga spent 18 months at school in Britain before her mother took her to Moscow. She studied at a school in Saffron Walden, west of London.

The school's hursar, Nicholas Hawksley, said Friday the school would be happy to have Olga back. There would probably be room for her in the summer term, starting next weekend.

Headmaster John Woods agreed in principle to a possible re-

turn when her mother unexpectedly took her to Moscow.

The four-times married daughter of the late Soviet dictator was quoted in British press reports Friday as saying she was "much relieved" at the prospect of her unhappy daughter's return to England.

The reports said the visa for Olga was the result of a deal between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"The gentle influence of Mr. Gorbachev's wife Raisa is thought to have been behind it," the Daily Mail said.

Olga would probably be allowed to visit her mother during school holidays until her high school education in Britain is completed in two years' time, diplomatic sources said.

Cosmonauts to photograph Soviet crops

MOSCOW (R) — Cosmonauts Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovoyov plan to take photographs from the Mir space station to determine the state of Soviet agriculture, TASS news agency said Friday.

It said the cosmonauts, at the end of their third week in the orbiting station, would use manual cameras to check the progress of the winter crop in different regions of the Soviet Union.

Commander Kizim, 44, and engineer Solovoyov, 39, were planning to carry out research on other aspects of the Soviet economy, it said without giving details.

The complex currently consists of Mir, the Progress-25 cargo ship that docked on March 21 bringing new equipment and the Soyuz T-15 craft that took the cosmonauts to the stations on March 15.

The two men, preparing for Mir to be the first permanently manned orbiting station, were in good health and the flight was proceeding normally, TASS said.

Moscow has admitted, apparently for the first time, that a young cosmonaut was burnt to death during training in the early days of its space programme.

The government daily Izvestia said that Valentin Bondarenko died in March, 1961, at the age of 24 after fire swept through his earth-based space training capsule.

The article was one in a series on the Soviet space programme to mark the 25th anniversary of the flight of Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, on April 12, 1961.

It rejected as slander past reports in the Western press that several Soviet cosmonauts died in space before Gagarin made his successful flight.

The fire which killed Bondarenko started when a cotton swab, with which he had wiped himself, caught fire and flared in the oxygen-rich atmosphere of the capsule, Izvestia said.

According to official accounts, the worst Soviet space accident happened in 1971 when three cosmonauts died in a hatch failure as their capsule was re-entering the atmosphere. The only other reported space death was that of Vladimir Komarov in a fire in 1967.

Another astronaut, Henry Hartsfield, said he had won delay of a previous shuttle flight for a day after he was told of a slight risk that booster rockets could not be jettisoned after launch.

"That's the way the system works and is supposed to work," Hartsfield told the commission.

"But the information has to surface and in the case of the rocket motors, the information didn't get to us," Hartsfield said.

Astronaut Paul Weitz said the astronauts particularly should have been told of the O-ring problem because apparently it turned out to be a fatal flaw.

A National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) official told the commission that critical breakdowns left managers who decided to launch the fatal shuttle flight on Jan. 28 unaware of the O-ring problem.

Amie Aldrich, manager of NASA's space transportation systems, said one breakdown was a failure to notify the launch managers that several engineers had expressed concern the night before that the O-rings could fail.

Another was a failure to notify senior officials that lower-level engineers had considered the O-rings a potential problem.

Police reveal Protestant plot in Ulster

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — The police chief says he has evidence of a Protestant plot to spread violence in Northern Ireland, and the Irish Republic has indicated it may slow down negotiations on its role in the province to avoid further unrest.

Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said in a British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) Television interview Thursday that the plot included plans to infiltrate a banned Protestant parade in Portadown 40 kilometres south west of Belfast on Monday.

"We have irrefutable evidence that this was intended to occur," he said. He refused to reveal the evidence, however, saying to do so would disclose how and where it was obtained.

Irish government officials in Dublin indicated willingness to see a slow-down of British-Irish negotiations to try to avoid further inflaming Protestant anger against an agreement the two countries signed on Nov. 15.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald's government will not press for dramatic or immediate results from the inter-governmental conference of Irish and British officials or its secretariat in the next few months.

Protestant militants renewed their attacks on police in Northern Ireland late Thursday.

In northern Belfast, shots were fired at a police land rover and about 50 youths attacked police with rocks and gasoline bombs, but no one was hurt in either incident, said a police spokesman in Belfast.

Rock-throwing gangs also attacked the homes of 12 policemen in Protestant areas around the province during the night, but there were no injuries, he said. The 12 homes were subsequently put under police guard.

The spokesman also reported the discovery of a submachine gun, a shotgun and 2,000 rounds of ammunition in a police search of a community centre on the Cragg Housing Scheme in Protestant east Belfast. Three men were arrested in connection with the overnight find, he said.

Violence erupted after 2,000 Protestant hardliners defied the ban and staged a token march through the town. Protestant mobs subsequently went on the rampage in several Northern Ireland towns.

Hermon said the alleged plan was to "allow the parade to go... to a certain point where violence would be created and that violence would spread to Belfast, and to Catholic interfaces, and to Londonderry and to other areas."

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Woman wipes out service station

RICHMOND, California (R) — It was Lily Fowler's first accident in 60 years of driving, but it was a big one. Fowler, 80, hit the accelerator instead of the brake as she drove up to the car wash at a petrol station. Her car shot into the street, struck a passing car, then smashed through a wooden fence and mowed down a petrol pump. Before the situation was brought under control, four cars, including Fowler's 1960 Ford Thunderbird, were engulfed in flames. Fowler's son, Fire Department Captain Robert Fowler, helped put out the fires.

It was banned late Sunday after Hermon advised the government that "sinister elements had infiltrated and taken control."

Innocent people were going there "unaware that that parade had been infiltrated and dominated by terrorists and subversives who were bent on confrontation, riots or worse," Hermon said.

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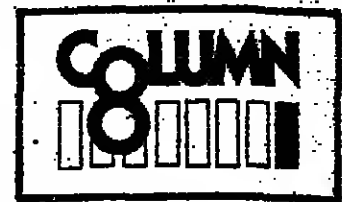
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Cleaning cow pats to cost £2,000

PENZANCE, England (R) — Local authorities are putting up £2,000 (\$2,900) to solve the sticky problem of cow pats on a road. Farmer Wil